

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

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2007.**

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

**1. Apologies** Councillors: M Gustard and L Keegan

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. POLICE REPORT**

PC Cockerall attended the meeting with two Street Wardens from the District of Easington.

Since the last meeting the Police advised that there had been 3 incidents of criminal damage. Firstly, at Weymouth Drive involving the guttering to a house, secondly, at Sidmouth Close where stones were thrown at a caravan, and finally, at the Times Inn where a window had been broken. The youths involved were believed to have come from Seaham and Murton. Police were also called to the rear of Pageats House where five youths were causing a nuisance and drinking.

One burglary had been reported at Escallond Drive and one youth had been apprehended after a theft from the Jubilee Store.

A car had been searched in the Picnic Site and Amphetamines were found. One male was arrested and his house will also be searched.

Police and Warden Services are paying attention to the rear of the garage and Grasmere cut as this site is often frequented by youths.

Members raised concerns regarding where youths were obtaining the alcohol. The Police had been surveying local shops and it was likely that elder youths were purchasing it on behalf of younger people and in some cases it may be coming from parents. Some elders have been apprehended regarding this.

Members further raised concerns regarding youths who have been frequenting the field between Graham Way and Dalton-le-Dale. It has been observed that youths have camped out in this area (near the gorse bushes), causing noise and nuisance to residents. Litter i.e. cans and bottles are left strewn around the site after such events. The Police and Wardens would include this area in their rounds.

Members also raised concerns regarding youths who were congregating along the track between Westlea and Dalton Heights. This area would also be included in the rounds by Police and Wardens.

Members again raised concerns regarding speeding traffic at the Times Inn Bank and their efforts to improve road safety on this stretch of road.

Members raised the issue of Parking at Dale Terrace (on a bend and slight brow of hill) that was a blind corner. If the Police can identify persistent offenders they could give a

warning. If yellow lines are needed then this matter should be referred to the Highways section at Durham County Council.

**4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

None.

**5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March which had been circulated to Members previously.

**5a. Matters arising from that meeting.**

None.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a.) LCR Magazines.** Distributed for members information.

**b.) Stake Holder Event – Easington District Council.** Copies provided for Members information.

**c.) Letter of thanks is received from the Durham Wildlife Trust regarding the Parish donation.**

**d.) Royal Garden Party.** Clerk advised that the Parish Council were unsuccessful in receiving an invitation.

**e.) Jon Stoddart – Chief of Police.** Copy of correspondences provided for information. Arising from this, Members have requested the Clerk to enquire via the District of Easington as to how the Council Tax Bill shows a larger precept for the Parish Council than what was agreed.

**7. PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning permission has been granted for an application notified previously for the: Two storey side and single storey rear extension, at 9 Dartmouth Close, Seaham

**8. CONSULTATION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A DOG CONTROL ORDER FOR THE DISTRICT OF EASINGTON**

Members fully supported the proposal and extension of the Dog Fouling Areas and request that the Clerk obtain copies of the maps for display in the notice boards.

**9. CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR THE SERVICING OF DOG BINS**

Members fully agreed to the contract renewal and request the Clerk to reply reminding the District Council of past problems experienced from this service.

**10. QUEEN AND DOREEN AVENUE**

The Clerk advised Members that he had reported issues of vehicle trespass on grass verges to the District's Environmental Services and that the District had not received any formal complaints regarding the conducting of a car repair business in the area. However, the District's Environment Services and the DVLA had removed four un-taxed cars from the area that perhaps could be linked to such illicit activities. At this moment the District's Environmental Enforcement have no evidence of a business being conducted; neither have they received planning application for such activities.

**11. GARDEN COMPETITION**

The Clerk will seek the services of a judge for this event.

**12. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk advised that he is seeking a costing to distribute the newsletter and that this will be prepared for the next meeting following the possible elections and changes to Members.

**13. WEBSITE**

The Clerk advised that contact has been made with the website administrator (Gordon Richardson) who is currently updating the format of the site. Minutes of the last three meetings have been sent and will be placed on the website for public access. A new leisure page is to be created to hold information regarding walking and cycling in the area. The Clerk further advised that he will be looking to refresh the Parish Council page to include recent changes and provide more recent information.

**14. ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

- a. In considering the costing from Horns Garden Centre, Members agreed to the works, but asked that existing Cordylines be reused and that the cost of this is deducted from the quotation.
- b. Removal of Ivy from Trees in the woodland. The Clerk will contact the District's Tree and Woodland Officer regarding this matter.
- c. Tree planting in woodland. The Clerk will contact the District's Tree and Woodland Officer regarding this matter.
- d. Public request to install the swings. The Clerk advised that a member of the public had been in contact requesting the installation of the swings. Members agreed to install the swings and that future installation and removal of the swings would coincide with the changes to British Summer Time.
- e. The Clerk advised that he had received several complaints regarding the lack of salt at the Church Bank junction. This matter had been referred to DCC Highways.
- f. The Clerk advised that complaints had been received regarding 'house sale signs' on grass verges. This matter was referred to the District Council.

**15. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

In considering the reply from DCC Highways Members requested;

- I. The Clerk to write to DCC Highways asking for a detailed breakdown of the costing to harden the verges in Overdene estate and to enquire if a contribution to this work could be made by themselves, and to seek quotations for this work from other sources.
- II. With regards to the bank side erosion the Clerk will write to both the Environment Agency and DCC Highways bringing this matter to their attention.
- III. Despite the refusal for traffic mirrors at Overdene, Members suggest that traffic calming measure by means of using the highly visible orange tarmac, chevrons, rumble strips and 40mph painted on the road on Times in Bank may be a solution to speeding traffic. The Clerk is asked to refer such ideas to DCC Highways.
- IV. The Clerk will seek to make contact with the DCC Footpaths Officer regarding this matter.
- V. Members request DCC Highways to revisit the unclassified road as this work was funded originally by the Parish Council.
- VI. The Clerk advised that some tree pruning had taken place and the hedge row had been attended to.

In conclusion, having considered the content of the reply from DCC highways, Members expressed their disappointment in the response received.

**16. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- a. Members considered the request for financial assistance from Seaham Town Council (STC) and the supplementary information provided. Members fully agreed that on this occasion they could not accede to the request. Clerk to inform STC accordingly.
- b. Members received the request for financial assistance from Easington Carers Collaborative.
- c. The Clerk provided information (Minute 17 of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2004) that clarifies the Council's past decision/agreement regarding the request for financial assistance from County Durham Primary. It was therefore fully agreed by Members to accede to this request for payment.
- d. Campaign To Protect Rural England. Members fully agreed to renew the annual Membership at a cost of £27.

**17. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Members moved the financial report given by the Clerk.

**18. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

The Clerk advised of the recent decision made by Central Government on the proposals received from the Districts and the County Council regarding the Review of Local Government. The Clerk distributed further information for Members.

**19. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman advised of the forthcoming elections involving both District and the Parish Councils. Where possible the Parish of Dalton-le-Dale would seek to provide a full representation of candidates.

**20. CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised of correspondence received from the NUM Durham Area regarding support for the Durham Miners Gala 2007. Interest in this matter was declared by one Member. The remaining Members fully agreed to support this event by providing a message of support at a cost of £35.

The Clerk advised of further information received from the Durham Rural Community Council regarding the 'CALOR Village of The Year 2007'. Having perused this information it would appear to be an event that would involve greater planning between all organisations in the Parish and an entry could not be made in time.

The Clerk advised of the renewal notice for the Parish Council from their insurers. Having checked the schedule there are items to be removed (old office equipment) and the possible inclusion of items (street furniture). The Clerk advised that payment for the Insurance can be processed as normal and a revised schedule will be sent to the Insurers notifying them of the changes. Any increase/decrease to charges will be adjusted after this.

The Clerk advised of the 'Community Hubs – A Living Network' event organised by DU Service CIC for the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at Annfield Plain. Due to working commitments and travel, no Members could attend.

## **21. MEMBERS REPORTS**

The Member who attended the Review of Community Engagement Activities on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 advised of the event held at Shotton Hall. Full minutes of the event will be forwarded to all attending.

Members advised that at the opening of the last Tidy Ted Meeting a one minute silence was paid as a tribute to Cllr W Hepplewhite.

Members advised that the road sign for Escallond Drive was misspelled. Clerk will contact the District Council regarding this matter.

Members expressed their interest with Dalton-le-Dale becoming a Conservation Area. The Clerk will seek information regarding this from the District Council Planning Department.

Members raised concerns regarding the new lights that had been installed along the track between Dalton Heights and West Lea. They were too bright and despite requests for them to be changed this had not yet been done. This area also raised concerns regarding Dog Fouling and in places soil had been banked up. The Clerk will report these matters to Environment Services.

Members expressed concerns with regards to vehicles parking on the grass in Dene Road. However, it was reported that building works were taking place and that this matter could be tolerated.

Members reported that a concrete post at Dale Terrace was knocked over and needs to be re-erected. Clerk would report this matter to Environment Services.

The Clerk shall enquire as to the possibility of 'double yellow lines' at Dale Terrace where parking on a bend is causing concern.

## **22. NEXT MEETING**

The scheduled meeting would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, however this date is local Election Day and the meeting may have to be delayed until the week after. The Clerk will advise Members in due course.