

# Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

- Present:** Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)  
Councillors: A Westmorland, M Hepplewhite, M Oliver, M Gustard, L Keegan, S Richardson and C Olsen.
- Public:** M Lennox, C Walton, K Wright, N Wright, M Donkin, J Humes, S Humes, A Richards, H C Richards.
- Police:** PCSO's G Cockerill and G Stephenson (Seaham Police).

The Chairman opened the meeting requesting 1 minute silence in respect of the late Cllr R Olaman who had recently passed away.

Cllr Olaman was first elected to the Parish Council in 1966 and was chairman of the Parish Council on 8 occasions. He had also served many years as an elected member on the District Council and was also a long standing member of the Durham Aged Miners Homes Association. His experience, knowledge and commitment to his community will be sadly missed by parishioners and colleagues from the Parish Council.

1. **APOLOGIES** None.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

### 3. **POLICE REPORT**

The Police advised that 1 burglary had taken place and no suspect has been identified at present. There were 3 reports of rowdy nuisance from the Esso Garage/Plymouth Close where up to 15 youths had congregated. Details were taken from the youths and drink ceased.

Youths were reported to be throwing stones off the bridge over the A19. A report was received of mini-motors in Plymouth Close. The Church had fuel oil stolen and local enquiries were undertaken. The theft of a horse trailer had taken place at the Gatehouse.

Members advised that security fencing had been stolen from the stream fissure and members also enquired about the walk through patrols. The Police advised that walking patrols through Dalton-le-Dale take place twice a week.

### 4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Many residents from Overdene Estate attended the meeting to express their concerns at the recent developments in their locale that covered the following points.

- The lack of consultation concerning the verge hardening scheme,
- The need for further verge hardening schemes in the estate, and
- The notice received by households adjoining the rear dirt track (south of South View) from the land Registry, where an application for freehold to this land has been.

The Chairman acknowledged the concerns regarding the need for more verge hardening in Overdene Estate and advised that the Parish Council would undertake a site visit and then seek costing to undertake such works to alleviate the parking difficulties.

With regards to the dirt track, residents expressed their concerns over the possible restrictions that could be imposed on the use should it pass to new ownership. Some residents had already been advised by the new owner that their current usage of the dirt track would be restricted and the right of way only granted to those who could justifiably claim a right to it. Residents advised that their use of this dirt track had gone undisturbed for many years and they would be seeking legal representation to continue using the track as they had done in the past.

The following discussion raised some contentious issues resulting in the councillor concerned offering his verbal resignation which was accepted.

To assist the residents of Overdene Estate in this matter the council resolved to send a letter of support to the land registry, supporting the continued use of this dirt track by the residents of Overdene Estate.

5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 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.

The Chairman advised that it would not be possible to conclude the agenda at this evenings meeting and therefore moved to the following agended items.

10. **REQUEST FOR FINACIAL ASSISTANCE**

- a) Members considered the request for financial assistance from Easington and District Citizens Advice Bureau and resolved to provide £30.
- b) Members considered the request for financial assistance from Victim Support and resolved to provide £25.

11. **MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month. Members agreed to the payments and moved the Clerk's financial report.

**The meeting was adjourned and agreed to be reconvened on Thursday next week in the Parish Hall**

**Reconvened meeting**

**Present:** Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)

Councillors: M Hepplewhite, M Oliver, M Gustard, L Keegan and C Olsen.

**Apologies** Councillor: S Richardson

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). Members received the draft policy in respect of Hackney and Private Hire Licensing from Durham County Council.
- b). Members received the draft policy in respect of the Gambling Act 2005 from Durham County Council.
- c). Members received the CPRE Overview – Winter 2008 Newsletter.
- d). Members received copies of the LCR magazine.
- e). Members received the invitation to the Seaham School of Technology – Open Evening.
- f). The Clerk advised of the letter of thanks received from NEPACS concerning the donation made.
- g). The Clerk advised of the works to the Church wall adjacent to the playground being undertaken by the District of Easington. Members resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to District of Easington.
- h). Members received copy of CDALC November Newsletter.
- i). The Clerk advised that the exercise to evaluate the level of Double Taxation resulted in a nil return for Dalton-le-Dale.
- j). Members received the Coast and Countryside Rangers January Newsletter.
- k). Members received the information from the Communities and Local Government Department on the consultation for local authorities recommended practice on public consultation.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS**

- a). The Clerk advised of the planning approval for:  
Bedroom extension, 9 South View, Dalton-le-Dale
- b). The Clerk advised of the planning approval for:  
Conservatory, 5 Exmouth Close, Seaham.

## **8. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS**

- a). Streetlight No: 1309 at rear of 54 Dalton Heights. Members advised that DCC had not addressed the lighting complaint as stated in their correspondence and requested the Clerk to contact them on this matter.
- b). Members received the letter from DCC regarding various issues and advised that the 40mph sign had still not been replaced at Graham Way. Members requested the Clerk to contact DCC Highways regarding its renewal.
- c). Members received the letter from DCC Highways concerning their refusal to undertake road markings in the Dalton Heights estate despite the Parish Council's offer to fund this work.
- d). Members could not confirm that the Escallond Drive sign had been replaced.
- e). Members received the correspondence from Durham County Council and District of Easington concerning the erosion of the bank side on the stream.

Members advised that the 40mph road sign at top of Graham Way had still not been renewed. The Clerk was requested to contact Highways on this matter.

## **9. ENVIRONMENT**

- a). **Cleansing of Stream.** Members received the correspondence from the District of Easington concerning this matter and would like to undertake the site visit with B Weatherall on this matter. The Clerk will contact the District of Easington to arrange.
- b). **Stream Fissure.** Members advised that sections of the fence had been removed and were concerned for public safety. The Clerk was requested to inform the District of Easington of this matter.
- c). **Village Green.** Members received the information from Groundwork East Durham concerning their proposal for the village green. Due to the cost involved it was resolved that the council could not progress this matter. With regards to the Tree Works Members resolved to proceed with the quotation provided and after this work is completed it would offer the opportunity to reassess the village green.
- d). **Tree Works in the Play Ground.** The Clerk advised that he had contacted the District of Easington concerning the damage made to the ground by vehicles that attended the site. The council would be seeking to rectify this matter. However, at present, the site is occupied with workmen who are rebuilding the church wall and reinstatement will be undertaken later.
- e). **Tree Week 2008.** The Clerk advised that he had inspected the site where tree planting was intended and observed that new trees and shrubs had been planted. There was also numerous shoots of natural growth that would eventual create coverage for this area. Members expressed concerns that some of this new planting was not native species to the Dale and should not have been planted. The Clerk advised that the ownership of the land was unidentified and despite the planting of these trees by residents there is no permission or power given that allows the parish council to remove them. Members resolved for the Clerk to write to the District of Easington to see if they could address this matter. Members further resolved to walk the Dale during the spring/summer to identify other tree or hedge planting opportunities for next year.

## **12. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHEQUE SIGNATORY**

Members resolved that Cllr L Keegan and Cllr C Olsen would be the replacement cheque signatories.

## **13. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

The Clerk advised of the notices to be displayed and the time scale involved for recruiting new members to the council.

## **14. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised that the new notice board had arrived on site and requested the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the supplier. The Clerk was also requested to make arrangements to have the board erected.

## **15. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised members of the opportunity to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party. It was resolved that the Chairman be entered into the draw.

The Clerk advised of the draft Local Council Charter produced by the new Durham County Council.

The Clerk advised of the Community Newsletter received from Durham County Council.

The Clerk advised of the opportunity to meet with J Murphy to discuss the options for neighbourhood arrangements that will underpin the new Area Action Partnerships that will replace the current Local Strategic Partnerships. The Clerk was requested to make arrangements.

The Clerk advised of the invitation to the District of Easington chairman's reception to be held on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It was resolved that the vice-chair attend.

The Clerk advised of the receipt of the Valuing People newsletter for January 2009.

#### **16. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Members suggested that in the next newsletter information concerning the Highways Action Line should be given as the public can report road and street lighting issues directly.

Members advised of the misuse of the grassed areas adjoining the public right of way between Westlea and Dalton Heights. Members agreed to undertake a site visit to this land following the site meeting at Overdene.

Members advised that the invoice for the new Notice Board was to come.

Members had attended the Joint Consultative meeting at the District of Easington that discussed the new Charter for local councils. The meeting had also raised concerns where many residents had not received the refuse collection Christmas Card that provides information of the revised collection dates.

Members advised that the blue bin (garden recyclable waste) starts in March.

Members advised that they had been in touch with John Lowes from the District of Easington concerning the trees that are heavily laden with Ivy. The Clerk was requested to send a reminder to J Lowes following his site meeting with members.

#### **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009**