

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 5th March 2009.

Present: Councillors: M Oliver (Vice Chairman) M Gustard, L Keegan, S Richardson and C Olsen.
Public: M Lennox, C Walton, K Wright, J & J Greencroft.
Police: Seaham Police PC Advent (1177), PCSO (7186) G Stephenson and Inspector Adison.
District of Easington: J Bellis

1. **APOLOGIES** Cllrs W Kennedy & M Hepplewhite.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

The Police advised that no burglaries had taken place since the last report and no motor thefts. There had been several reports of youth nuisance throughout the area with Deneside Park becoming a particular hot-spot. Extra staff have been used to address youth problems and reports of street drinking are still being made. Some youths were taken home by the police to their parents. The police are continuing to undertake Alcohol Test Purchases in the area and this has led to one outlet receiving an £80 fine for failure. Most alcohol is being brought from the home and this is a matter for irresponsible parents.

Members advised that youths were congregating up Stoney Cut where evidence of drinking persists. Empty cans and broken glass is evident and the latter is a danger to local dog walkers. With the summer coming Members are conscious of previous fires that have been lit in the fields and the intimidating behaviour of young people. The Police advised that they would be targeting Deneside Park with extra PC's over this weekend and would also keep watch over this area.

Inspector Adison advised that as a result of continued complaints concerning young people he had convened a meeting with local youth workers in Seaham and as a result from that meeting Seaham Youth Centre would now be open on a Friday Evening up to 10pm. The Police are able to deal with youth crime but calls upon the community to provide services and facilities for young people so that they have opportunities. The Police have recently written to all school children in year 9 concerning a number of issues but stressed the need for the local councils and its communities to do more. The Police advised that funding for youth workers appeared to be a constant problem and suggested that local councils could help fund this matter. Members would consider this matter at some future meeting.

Inspector Adison advised that in general crime figures in the District of Easington were down 10% except for Easington Colliery which had risen. Anti-Social-Behaviour is the main concern from the public domain.

Members reported that groups of people were passing through the Dale with Lurcher dogs and traps had been put down for foxes, but have now been removed. The Police advised they would welcome reports on this matter and such issues should be reported.

The Chairman thanked the Police for their reports and attendance at this meeting.

4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Several residents from Overdene Estate attended the meeting to express their thanks to the Parish Council for the support it has given them in the issue of right of access over the dirt track to the South of South View. Residents advised that they have not received any news of this matter from the Land Registry.

Residents requested the Parish Council to undertake further verge hardening in the estate. Members advised that they had held a site meeting and would be seeking costing from the Highways section to undertake such works. When the council has agreed a scheme the Clerk will provide a newsletter to the

estate advising residents of further verge hardening proposals and giving residents the opportunity to agree or disagree on this matter.

Residents also expressed concerns at late night activities where they believed 'lamping' was in progress. In future this matter would be reported directly to the Police.

A resident expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. The Clerk advised that the present notices were erected advertising the two vacancies existed, however this notice was giving the Parishioners of Dalton-le-Dale the opportunity to call an election (should 10 or more Parishioners write to the Electoral Officer at the District of Easington). This notice period was due to expire and if insufficient interest has been raised to call an election the Parish Council will fill the vacancies by co-option giving interested parties the opportunity to apply for the position.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 5th February 2009 which had been circulated to Members previously.

5a. Matters arising from that meeting.

None.

6. AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

Jane Bellis from the District of Easington gave a brief presentation of the role-out of the AAP's. It was resolved that the Parish Council would give this matter further consideration at its next meeting and requested the Clerk to agenda this matter with copies of the information provided.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a). The Clerk advised Members of the written letter of resignation received from Cllr A Westmorland.
- b). Members received the Newsletter from the County Durham Sustainability and Environment Partnership.
- c). Members received the information concerning the public meeting being held on the new Nuclear Build at Hartlepool.
- d). Members received the CE Electric newsletter.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk advised of the planning approval for:
2 No. Semidetached houses at land adjacent to Queens Avenue.

9. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

- a). Streetlight No: 1309 at rear of 54 Dalton Heights. Members advised that this matter remains outstanding and requested the Clerk to contact them on this matter.
- b). Members advised that the new sign has been erected; however a further sign leading into the estate is also misspelt. Members requested the Clerk to contact District of Easington for its replacement.
- c). Bank side erosion. No further information was received from the District of Easington or DCC Highways on this matter. Members requested the Clerk to keep this item on the agenda.

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.

10. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Cleansing of Stream.** The Clerk advised that the District of Easington had not put forward a date to walk the stream and the Clerk would pursue them for a date.

- b). **Stream Fissure.** Members advised that sections of the fence had been repositioned to cover a smaller area around the point of danger.
- c). **Tender for the supply and planting of village planters.** The Clerk advised that he was unable to source sufficient interest in this matter as local suppliers could not do both with the exception of the previous supplier Horns. It was resolved for the Clerk to invite Horns to submit a quotation for this year's planting.

11. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance. It was resolved that a donation of £50 would be made on this occasion.

12. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month. Since preparing this report an additional invoice had been received from Local Glass & Glazing for their work in doing the Notice Boards. Members agreed to the payments and moved the Clerk's financial report.

13. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHEQUE SIGNATORY

The Clerk provided the forms requiring Members signatures and further details for the change of cheque signatories. Clerk will forward complete details to Barclays Bank.

14. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Clerk advised that the Returning Officer at the District of Easington would be contacting him shortly to advise if residents of the Parish have necessitated the need to call an election. If not the Clerk would be advertising the vacancies through the co-option process and display notices in the notice boards. Members resolved to have an advert on this matter placed in the Sunderland Echo to reach out to local people.

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that she had attended the District of Easington's Chairman's Reception Evening that was part of the closing process bringing an end to the District of Easington Council.

16. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised members of the Murton East Ward Surgery to be held on the 9th March at 6pm in the Glebe Centre.

The Clerk advised of his attendance at the NALC York meeting with the Chairman of the Council. Several workshops were attended and notes taken.

The Clerk advised that he had received a reply from the District of Easington concerning the Public Right of Way to the rear of Dalton Heights. The District Council was unable to offer any assistance in the issue of vehicle trespass to the verge. Fencing and boulders had been considered but these would form an obstruction over the area that had a wayleave strip of approximately 1 to 1.5 metres.

The Clerk advised of the receipt of the newsletter from the Standards Board and would circulate a copy with the next agenda.

The Clerk had received a quotation for the installation of the glass to the new notice board and had instructed the local glazer to undertake this work.

The Clerk advised Members of the District of Easington's Chairman's final charity night to be held at Easington Colliery Workmen's Club on Friday 27th March 2009. Proceeds would go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Clerk advised that the outcome of the arbitration process concerning the annual pay award for 2008/09 resulted in an increase of 2.75% for the year. Previously, an interim adjustment of 2.45% had been used. The Clerk would make a final adjustment to the Salary to fully correct amounts for the year end.

The Clerk advised that the Chairman has been invited to attend the Royal Garden Party on the 14th July 2009.

The Clerk advised of the Special Meeting to be held by the CDALC on Saturday 4th April 2009 at 10.30am in the Council Chambers, County Hall, Durham.

17. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members expressed concerns at the dangers to Foxes and Deer. The Clerk was requested to write to DCC Highways requesting a warning sign 'Beware of Deer'.

Members expressed concerns regarding ownership of land near the village green and were concerned about 'adverse possession' and the 12 year rule. Members requested that this matter be agended for the next meeting.

Members expressed their thanks to DCC Highways in keeping the roads clear during the period of heavy snow and icy conditions. Members also expressed concerns at the limiting amount of salt/grit available from the grit bins within the estates.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd April 2009