

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY, 6th December 2007.

Present: Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)
Councillors: M Oliver, M Hepplewhite, S Richardson, A Westmorland, M Gustard, L Keegan.

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillors: M Gustard.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
One Member declared an interest in item 10c.
3. **POLICE REPORT**
None.
4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**
None.
5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 1st November 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). Durham County Council – Consultation on 2008/09 Budget Proposals. Members agreed that this matter be received and no return made.
 - b). Chairman’s Civic Carol Service. It was agreed that the Vice Chair attend this event on behalf of the Parish. Clerk would advise the Chairman’s secretary.
 - c). New Planning Policies from the District of Easington. Members agreed that these matters be received and for the Clerk to retain these documents for future reference.
7. **PLANNING MATTERS**
 - a). Front extension to garage at 14 Plymouth Close. Members had no objections to this proposal.
 - b). First floor side extension and rear conservatory at 1 Brixham Close. Members had no objections to this proposal.
 - c). Siting of static caravan, Poultry Farm off Dene Road. Members requested the Clerk to question the District of Easington on this approval, covering the following points.
 1. Has the District of Easington undertaken a site visit regarding this application?
 2. Why does the applicant have need for a security caravan if there is no livestock on the site?
 3. There is already a white coloured caravan on this site and should/could this caravan’s colour be controlled by planning controls?
 4. How does the District of Easington Planning Department intend to monitor the use of this caravan as per the conditions of approval?
8. **HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS**
 - a). B1285 Times Inn Bank – Reply from Durham County Council Highways. Members agreed that the reply from DCC Highways be received. Members requested the Clerk to check on

the 40mph road marking reminder at the top of the Times Inn Bank heading down towards Overdene. If this road marking is for the Clerk to report it to DCC Highways.

- b). Overdene Estate - verge hardening. Members were concerned that no reply had been received from the District of Easington Engineers regarding a revised proposal. The Clerk is to write to the Engineers outlining our disappointment at not receiving in time.
- c). Handrail to footpath at Times Inn. The Clerk advised that a reply from the DCC Public Rights of Way is received stating that they have issued a works order to have this repair undertaken. However, no date was given when this work would take place.
- d). Dalton Heights Estate – Request for road markings. A reply is received from the DCC Highways on this matter stating that they do not consider such markings necessary. Members requested the Clerk to write back querying this decision and to request information on the criteria used in such judgements.

9. ENVIRONMENT

- a). Progress of stream footpath. The Clerk advised that he had met with a Planning Officer from the District of Easington who received the outline proposal of the Parish Council's interest in developing this footpath. The Planning Department will undertake general investigation and will contact the Clerk in due course when complete.
- b). The Clerk, having concluded the land searches requested displayed a map of the area outlining the ownership of land. There was no ownership title to the sections of the stream where concerns have been raised.

10. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a). Victim Support. Members agreed to donate £25 to this scheme.
- b). Open Space Society. Members agreed to donate £25 to this scheme.
- c). Dalton-le-Dale Community Association. Members agreed to donate £60 towards the production of the Annual Village Calendar.

11. QUALITY STATUS CRITERIA

Members received the information provided by the Clerk on this matter.

12. PARISH PLANNING

Members received the information provided by the Clerk on this matter. The Clerk will provide an outline plan for the Parish Council to undertake this exercise at the next meeting.

13. CiLCA

- a). Draft Complaints Procedure. Members agreed the adoption of this procedure.
 - b). Clerks Contract of Employment. Members agreed the contract.
- The Clerk also requested permission to purchase a further publication on Local Government Administration (by Charles Arnold Clark). Members agreed to this purchase.

14. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Members agreed the report given by the Clerk.

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of her attendance to the Remembrance Sunday event.

The Chairman further advised of her attendance with the Clerk to the Quality Counts Conference in Skipton. This conference stressed the importance of the CiLCA qualification for the Clerk and the need to obtain Quality Status.

The Workshops attended covered Quality Status and CiLCA. The Chairman spoke of the drive being made by the NALC for all Parish Councils to obtain these two elements, as in the long term

this will enable Parish Councils to opt into greater responsibilities that may evolve out of the Local Government Review. The conference provided a good insight into how our Parish Council is performing against others and having attended this conference, the Chairman expressed her confidence in what we have achieved over the years and the way in which we undertake our business when compared to other Parishes.

Members gave thanks to the Chair and Clerk for giving up their Saturday to attend this event.

16. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised of the receipt of the following item that Members could peruse if requested, newsletter from the DALC; December edition of the Coast and Countryside Rangers, November edition of Valuing People, The District of Easington's Review of the Polling Districts, CPRE newsletter, summary copy of the Local Transport Plan (LTP2) and a letter confirming DCC Highways had received a copy of the Maxine Stubbs report on the Times Inn Bank Road Safety.

The Clerk further advised that he had received notification on a training event concerning the Planning Portal to be held in County Hall on the 30th January 2008. Having expressed an interest in this matter, Members agreed for the Clerk to attend.

The Clerk advised that he was in receipt of an anonymous letter that had been posted through a Members letterbox. The content expressed concerns about vehicles parking along Dene Road. Members agreed that this matter be held over until the next meeting and that the Clerk should write to the Police advising that matters are being raised that can only be dealt with by the Police and that they have missed the last two meetings.

17. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members enquired if any action had been taken regarding the tree limbs that had been cut down on Graham Way. The Clerk advised that no reply had been received from the Tree and Woodland Office despite a reminder. A Member advised that this matter was also raised at the Joint Consultative meeting and that so far the cuttings have been removed. Members also expressed concerns whereby properties adjacent to Graham Way have installed entrance gates. Members requested the Clerk to write to the Director of Environment Service on these two matters.

The Member who attended the Joint Consultative meeting advised that the following matters were raised on behalf of the Parish, the planning proposal at Poultry Farm, heavy traffic coming through Dalton-le-Dale, tree leaning over (near the stream) which the District of Easington have recently removed. Advising from that meeting, information on the revised Xmas waste collections will be distributed soon, and the curb-it service is subject to a retendering exercise.

A Member had walked along the stream with environmental services, where it was noted that logs were blocking a culvert. There were items of pollution, need for litter picking and the 30mph sign was found. Environmental services have promised a clean-up exercise.

The Joint Consultative Meeting is to broaden its agenda to include wider issues in recognition of the findings from a recent questionnaire.

Members raised concerns to the lighting to the rear of 54 Dalton Heights along the track. Lower level lighting and/or a deflector/shade was requested as the present lighting was invasive to nearby property. This track is also a place where numerous young people are congregating. The Clerk will again report this matter to DCC Street Lighting.

Members advised that the hedgerow protruding onto the footpath still remains. The Clerk advised that he had written to the household concerned and will now report this matter to DCC Highways.

A Member advised of the progress that the Community Association was making regarding the rebuild of the centre, resubmission of the planning application and continued fundraising.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7th February 2008.

CERTIFIED CORRECT: CHAIRMAN

DATE: **Thursday, 7th February 2008**