

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

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

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

1. Apologies :None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. GARDEN COMPETITION PRESENTATION

The Chairman gave praise and thanks to those people who had entered the competition. The judge had been inspired by the hard work, careful tending and planning that had been undertaken by all competitors and despite this summer being a difficult year, competitors had overcome the elements of the weather and produced gardens worthy of display.

The Best Overall Garden went to Corrine Henderson with Ernie Steel as the runner-up. The Best Low Maintenance Garden was awarded to Alyson Dixon. The Chair presented the Certificates and Prizes to those who attended.

4. POLICE REPORT

Officer Advent who regularly attends the meeting introduced the new local beat officer. The police reported that there had been a number of criminal incidents. Dene West Farm had been burgled, a car on Dene Road had its petrol tank punctured and a car had been stolen from the Times Inn. A further incident of a youth firing a catapult was also mentioned.

After lengthy investigations in connection with the incident where a person had had their ear bitten off, four youths are now being charged.

Members raised concerns regarding the number of caravans brought into Seaham by travellers for the Seaham Carnival who had parked by the Seaham Hall bends. The Police confirmed that they had accompanied the District Council who had served notices to these caravans as they were not on designated parking sites. A police presence was requested by Seaham Town Council to cover the carnival and despite the attendance of travellers there had not been a surge in crime. However, an incident where a horse was led through the Crows Nest public House at East Shore Village was reported and quickly attended to.

Members enquired if Seaham Town Council had paid for additional policing for this event and the officers stated that they did not know what arrangements had been made.

Members raised further concerns regarding horses drawing traps where a spare horse was tethered alongside. The Police confirmed that this matter was being addressed through the law which will see changes introduced next year regarding this.

Despite concerns some Members had enjoyed the horse fair and carnival and reported that it was well policed.

Members also reported that vehicles had been churning up the grass at the end of the village near the picnic site. This action was detrimental to the environment leaving ruts damaging the public open spaces and that this area should be monitored.

Members also reported that the problem of youths in the field to the rear of Dene Road was continuing with drink and possible drugs involved. These matters will be monitored by the Police.

5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS

Residents reported that youths are continuing to congregate at Stoney Cut where drinking and the smoking of cannabis are evident. This issue has been reported to the Street Wardens in the past. Youths have been spoken to by a local resident and asked not to break glass as this area is used by many for walking dogs. The youths have continued to congregate in this area and glass breakages have reduced. It is suggested that youths congregate here as they can sit on the large rocks that block off an entrance where cars were regularly dumped. It may deter the youths if these rocks were painted in anti-vandal paint but this action would also affect innocent people.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 5th July 2007 which had been circulated to Members previously were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6a. Matters arising from that meeting.

Members reported that the 30mph road sign at the end of Dene Road was again in need of attention. The Clerk advised that this matter was reported to the Highways Action Line and would be reported again.

Members advised of two grammatical errors in the minutes. The Clerk would amend accordingly.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a.) Stakeholder Event – District of Easington’s Play Strategy (copy letter provided).

The Clerk advised of this event and it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk attend.

b.) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – District of Easington (copy letter provided).

Member advised that there were no alternatives or changes to make. The Clerk is to reply to District of Easington accordingly.

c.) Investigation into Double Taxation (copy information provided).

Members agreed for the Chairman and Clerk to reply on this matter.

d.) Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS (copy of letter provided).

The Clerk advised of the consultation opportunity concerning the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS (mental health services) who are planning to become a NHS Foundation Trust. The Clerk distributed leaflets to Members that would allow them the opportunity to partake in this.

e.) Local Government Reorganisation (copy information provided).

The Clerk provided the most recent news from Durham County Council. Members received this matter.

f.) Durham Police Authority – Policing Plan 2007-2008 and Joint Annual Report 2006/2007 (copy letter provided).

The Clerk advised that having taken part in the consultation process the new plan and report is now available for download. Members requested that the Clerk obtain a hard copy for our records.

g.) Poop-a-scoops B.O.G.O.F. (Buy One Get One Free) (copy letter provided).

The Clerk advised of the opportunity to purchase poop-a-scoops under the present terms offered by the District of Easington. Members declined the offer.

h.) Haswell & District Mencap Society – Invitation to Masquerade Ball (copy letter provided). Members declined this invitation.

i.) Victim Support County Durham (copy letter provided).

The Clerk provided this as information to Members. Members agreed that it be received.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Proposals

Members received the proposal for a Conservatory to 14 Galfrid Close, Seaham.

Approved

Members received the approved planning permissions for;
Haytor House (Two Storey side and single storey rear extension).
34 Dawlish Close (Boundary Wall & Entrance Gates)
15 Falmouth Close (Private Garage)

In relation to Haytor House, Members were aware of civil issues being raised by individuals through their own Solicitors and that the applicant was aware of this.

9. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

a.) B1285 Times Inn Bank – Request for Traffic Calming Measure (copy letter provided). Members expressed their continued concerns on this matter of speeding traffic and were annoyed at the lack of response given in the reply received. Members further advised that this matter was also reported to the North Area Forum and to local Cllr. Charlie Walker. Members agreed that a site meeting should be held with the local Durham County Councillor and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Durham County Council Highways Committee. Members further requested that those invited be provided with the Road Safety Report produced by Maxine Stubbs that was undertaken several years ago. Clerk will write to those involved enclosing the copy report and requesting a site meeting during the rush hour school traffic on a Friday afternoon. Members will consider raising a local petition in support.

b.) Parking on the Unclassified Road – Dale Terrace (copy letter provided).

Members agreed that the reply from Durham County Council be filed for reference in the event of future potential accident.

c.) Consultation Draft of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for County Durham (copy letter provided).

Clerk to obtain hard copy for the Council's consideration.

d.) Parish Paths Partnership – CELEBRATE P3 (copy letter provided).

Members agreed for the Chairman and Clerk to attend.

e.) Handrail at the path near Times Inn.

The Clerk advised that he had received a reply from the Durham County Council's Public Rights of Way Officer who thought that the handrail was not their responsibility as it appeared to be on adjoining land and not on the footpath. The Officer was seeking further advice on this matter from their line manager. Members advised that this handrail may have been erected by the District Council and that they should be contacted regarding repairs needed.

f.) Overdene Estate - Verge Hardening.

The Clerk had discussed this matter with the Engineer at the District of Easington who advised that it was not possible to provide a suitable solution to this area. Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the Head of Engineering at the District Council on this matter also requesting a site meeting.

10. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

a). Identification of Bus Stops (copy letter provided).

Members advised that they had no reply to make on this matter.

b). Progress of Stream Footpath.

The Clerk advised that he had met with a Landscape Architect and was planning to meet with others in the coming weeks for quotations for this project. He would also enquire if this project required planning permission with the District of Easington and if so obtain forms.

11. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

None received.

12. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Members moved the financial report given by the Clerk.

13. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of the recent visit to the Land Registry and the District of Easington regarding the ownership of land. Members expressed interest concerning several areas of land that needed ownership search. The Chairman and Clerk will complete the forms for submission to the Land Registry.

14. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised that as part of the CiLCA course he had attended 2 mentoring/training sessions. He had further attended a Payroll Training session by HMRC.

With regards to the vacancy for a Parish Councillor the Clerk proposed to advertise this in the notice boards to see if this would draw any interest. Members agreed to this.

The Clerk has recently received correspondence from the Head of Financial Management at the District of Easington who is requesting details of the Parish precept for year ending March 2009. Members agreed that this matter be agended for next meeting.

The Clerk distributed copies of the LCR magazine.

15. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members reported that trees had been cut back on the B1285 by the District of Easington.

Escallond Drive street name plate was misspelled. Clerk will report this to the District of Easington.

Members reported that garden refuse was still being tipped into the stream. Clerk will contact the District of Easington regarding the promised erection of notices.

Members reported that the road junctions in Dalton Heights were not painted with the customary give-way markings and that this was causing concerns regarding road safety. The Clerk is requested to write to DCC Highways on this matter.

Members raised concerns regarding the former play area in the vicinity of Dalton Grange/Watson Close. Members requested that the Clerk contact the District of Easington to request that this area of tarmac be put back to grass.

The Member representing the Community Association advised that at their July meeting they had considered a wooden building for the site and were having site visits to view similar buildings as part of their decision making process.

The Member who had attended the Parishes Joint Consultative meeting advised that she had raised several issues including the need for garden waste bins in Dalton-le-Dale, the cleaning of the stream, 'No Tipping' notices and further advised that the District of Easington will take away up to five bags of garden refuse free. This free service can be accessed by calling Environment Services (Tel: 5275040) and requests the Clerk to have this information posted on the website.

Members also raised concerns at the parking of vehicles on the grassed areas along Dene Road especially in wet conditions.

Members advised that the Dog Bin to the rear of the Church is missing. Clerk will report to the District of Easington.

Members reported that trees had been planted in the area.

Members raised concerns regarding the spread of Himalayan Balsam that was widespread in the trees and woodland. This was an invasive plant that needs attention. The Clerk is requested to report this matter to the District of Easington Tree and Woodland Officer.

For next year's Garden Competition Members provided the name of George Horn as a potential judge if required.

16. NEXT MEETING

4th October 2007.

CERTIFIED CORRECT: CHAIRMAN

DATE: Thursday, 4th October 2007