

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

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2006.**

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

**1. Apologies** Councillors: L Keegan, R Olaman, D Gleghorn and S Richardson.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**3. POLICE REPORT**

There were no representatives from the Police in attendance. The Chairman asked if they could attend the next meeting. Clerk would contact accordingly.

**4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

None

**5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November which had been circulated to Members previously.

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

A site meeting had taken place at Overdene Estate with representatives from DCC Highways. It was further reported that DCC Highways staff have revisited the site to undertake measuring.

The Clerk had made further enquiries regarding the use of Pellet Fertilisers and advised Members that no ban had been instructed by the District of Easington. Members asked that the Clerk contact the District of Easington to look back through their records to check that this was correct and also to contact Environmental Health regarding their monitoring of the use of Pellet Fertilisers.

Following a brief discussion on Queen and Doreen Avenue the Chairman asked that it be placed on the next meetings agenda.

The Chairman asked that on going items are kept on the agenda.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Members agreed to donate £50 to The Open Spaces Society

A copy of the Housing Strategy Consultation from the District of Easington Council was circulated to all Members for their individual response.

The information and letter of thanks from tnei (wind farm consultants) was received.

An invitation to the District of Easington Chairman's Civic Carol Service on the 18<sup>th</sup> December was received. It was agreed that two Members and their partners would attend.

Members considered the letter of appeal from the Countryside Alliance and agreed to display the 'love your POST OFFICE love your countryside' poster in the Parish notice boards.

**7. PLANNING MATTERS**

No new Planning Applications received.

Planning permission has been granted for an application notified previously: Conservatory to 34 Bowes Avenue Seaham.

**8. PRECEPT FOR 2007/08**

Members agreed to increase the Parish Precept by 2.5%. Clerk to forward details to the Head of Finance at the District of Easington.

**9. CERTIFICATE in LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION**

Members agreed to register for this process at the cost of £70. The Clerk would clarify the confusion over the validity of the Qualification through the Regional Development Officer for the North East and the County Training Partnership.

**10. ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

Members considered the minutes of the last two Environmental Meetings. The Clerk advised that he was in the process of writing to DCC Highways regarding a number of matters that have been previously raised and seeking feedback on any action to be taken. The 'Right of Way' Officer at DCC has also been contacted regarding the Footpath No1.

Members asked that the Highway matters at Overdene Junction and Church Bank be included. Members also discussed the possibility of having a Flashing Speed Sign on the Times Inn Bank. Members suggested that a letter to the local County Councillor may help in this cause. Clerk will write to the County Cllr. and Highways on these matters.

The stream is continuing to erode into the bank-side and moving ever closer to the road near Stoney Cut Bridge. The erosion of the bank-side is now exposing tree roots and therefore presents a danger. Photographs were provided by Members highlighting this matter.

Members further advised that a Grit Bin was over turned at the West end of Dale Terrace.

The Clerk would forward these matters to DCC Highways and the Public Right's of Way Officer.

The Clerk asked if Members would partake in a walk around the area so that he could familiarise himself more closely with the area. Some Members agreed to this and suggested Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January, meeting at the Village Hall for 9.00 am.

**11. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

Members raised concern regarding the cost of watering the Planters; the Clerk will enquire with the District of Easington and Seaham Town Council to provide this service for next year.

The Clerk advised that a further invoice had been received from the District of Easington regarding repairs to the playground that had been raised in September. The cost and repair was queried by Members and it was agreed that in future the Clerk would inspect the Playground prior to issuing further repairs.

The Clerk advised that the Mortgage Loan of £1,000 with the District of Easington had been reinvested at a rate of 4.75%.

Members accepted the Finance report given.

## **12. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman advised that she had attended the Memorial service at Murton with other Members.

The Chairman distributed diaries to those Members in attendance.

## **13. CLERKS REPORT**

**Burnside Cottages.** The Clerk advised of the recent tree felling in this vicinity, where 3 dying elms had been removed. Some controversy had been raised regarding the removal of these trees that constituted a danger of falling and so these trees were eventually removed by the District of Easington under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act (1976). The ownership of the land upon which these trees rested upon was unidentified (via, Land Registry records), and so the cost of doing this work was laid upon the land by the District of Easington so should the owner ever come forward then the cost of this work could be reclaimed by the Council. This land in question does not belong to any of the occupiers in Burns Cottages.

**Grasmere.** The Clerk advised that no further action has been undertaken by the owner regarding the wall rebuilding or possible planning application to erect a fence. Members raised concerns that the footpath passing between the Filling Station and Grasmere (photographs provided) constituted a danger to pedestrians whereby the removal of the wall now leaves a drop of several feet that is a danger. The Clerk would include this matter in the report to DCC Highways.

**Dalton Stream.** The Clerk advised that he is liaising with the District of Easington Engineers regarding the point near the picnic site where the bank-side is being eroded.

**Victim Support.** A request for financial assistance is received and Members agreed a donation of £25.

**Business Link.** Members agreed to display the flyers 'Time to go it alone' in the Community Hall.

**Durham County Council – Local Government White Paper.** The Clerk read out the letter received from Mark Lloyd the Chief Executive of DCC. The letter advised of the decision made by the Council's Majority Group of the County Council to press ahead with the Durham County Council's application for a Single Unitary Council to govern County Durham. Between now and the end of January they would be working with key stakeholders and partners including town and parish councils to develop a detailed business case for a unitary council, for submission to Government.

Members raised concerns regarding this limited working/consultation period as it ran into Christmas and the New Year at a time when many people will be on holiday and no meeting is scheduled.

The Clerk will contact Chris Tunstall at DCC and Steve Ragg from the DALC to enquire just how and when this period of consultation will take place so that Members can have the opportunity to express their voices.

**Garden Recycling Composters.** The Clerk provided details of the opportunity to purchase at discounted price garden composters. Full information on this can be found on the District of Easington website.

#### **14. MEMBERS REPORTS**

##### **Community Association**

They are still awaiting news from the Outline Proposal Form submitted to the Big Lottery. A further application is submitted to the Service Improvement Fund run by the East Durham Community Development Trust (EDCDT) seeking support to the project.

A social event, 'Race Night' had raised approximately £800 for the Community Association.

Members raised concerns regarding Lorries that were passing through Dalton-le-Dale and delivering to Seaham that were not local vehicles. Members asked that this matter be included in the letter to DCC Highways advising of the weight restrictions of the bridge and the need for more prominent signage. Also, Satellite Navigation may be being used by long distance drivers and that such systems are directing drivers by the shortest route. DCC Highways should also be advised of this as they may be able to advise operators of such systems to change transmission data.

Members also raised concern regarding the Hedgerow opposite Stoney Cut Bridge along Dene Road that has become overgrown and is deflecting pedestrians onto the road. This matter is a particular danger as it is on a bend in the road. The Clerk would include this report in the letter to DCC Highways.

Members agreed that should any business arise during the holiday period that the Chairman and Clerk deal with as appropriate.

#### **15. NEXT MEETING** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007