

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

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.**

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

**1. Apologies** Councillors: M Oliver, S Richardson

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

One Member declared an interest regarding planning applications.

**3. POLICE REPORT**

Apologies were received by the Clerk who advised that any issues arising can be forwarded to Seaham Police in writing.

**4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

None.

**5. COUNTY DURHAM PCT**

Liz Allen the Patient and Public Involvement Officer thanked Members for the opportunity to address the Parish Council to give information regarding the initiatives and developments that are happening in the Seaham area.

An event for Easington Carers Collaborative is being held on 14<sup>th</sup> of June and interested parties should contact 0191 5876003 for further information. There are various carer groups now established in the District involving the young, elderly and special needs carers who meet regularly to develop services suiting their needs.

A further event is being held at Shotton Hall for Mental Health Services on the 25<sup>th</sup> June covering the theme Crisis. The PCT have invested in this area of service due to the high levels of needs in the District.

The development of St Johns Square in Seaham is going through a period of consultation that has commenced and will end in early September. A schedule of that consultation will be forwarded to the Clerk. This can then be dispersed into the local community allowing for local input to determine the new services to be offered in Seaham. Liz Allen would like to meet as many groups as possible so that the consultation process is fully inclusive and that Seaham provides those services that are needed by local people.

**6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April which had been circulated to Members previously.

**6a. Matters arising from that meeting.**

Members gave praise to the newsletter and the garden competition entry slip that was included.

**7. ADOPTION OF CODE OF PRACTICE**

Members having considered the new Model Code of Conduct, Members passed a resolution to adopt it including the option of paragraph 12(2). The Clerk will inform the Standards Board of the council's resolutions.

The Clerk further advised that it is necessary to publicise this adoption in a local paper. With regards to this, and through the assistance of the District Council (who are combining with other Parish and Town Councils), a notice will be produced and published. This will reduce costs for all involved. The Parish will be invoiced in due course for participating in this combined advertisement.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a.) DCC Highways – Surface Dressing Programme.**

The Clerk advised Members of the road works to take place in Dalton-le-Dale that would involve temporary speed restrictions whilst the surface dressing works were taking place. Members raised concerns that these works may make the road humps less effective and road chippings would create a mess. The Clerk is advised to contact the Highways immediately regarding Members concerns and also the lack of notice given in this matter.

### **b.) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.**

Copy provided for Members consideration. Members moved that the item be received.

### **c.) Easington Regeneration Statement**

Copy of letter provided for Members consideration. Members agreed that the Chairman and Clerk respond to this consultation exercise.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

Proposal: Side conservatory  
At: 73 Weymouth Drive

Proposal: Private garage  
At: 15 Falmouth Close

Proposal: Two storey side and single storey rear extension and retaining wall.  
At: Haytor House, The Dene.

Members raised concerns regarding the Haytor House. It was proposed that the Clerk contact the District of Easington for further details and obtain plans so that this matter can be considered at the next meeting.

## **10. CONSERVATION AREA**

The Clerk advised that this matter had been presented to the Council previously and that the consultation process had provided the opportunity for Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council to put forward comments and suggestions concerning Dalton-le-Dale. Members are unsure about this and request the Clerk to look back through the Council's minutes for clarification at the next meeting.

## **11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

The Clerk and a Member having attended the event held by Durham County Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> June provided the following feedback.

The presentation given by John Richardson from the Corporate Director's Team was similar to that previously attended by the Chairman and Clerk two months prior. The presentation overran and left no time for the planned workshop sessions and therefore the event proved fruitless with nothing new to report.

The Chairman gave thanks to the Member who deputised for her at this event.

The Clerk also provided a copy of the recent letter received from the DCC Chief Executive for Members information.

## **12. ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

### **Site meeting with DCC Footpaths Officer.**

Footpath at Grasmere. The Clerk advised that the Footpaths Officer had referred this matter to their Health and Safety Unit who advised that enforcement action against the wall owner was not necessary as the width of the footpath was still wide enough for pedestrians to pass through. Members requested the Clerk to arrange a site meeting with both the County and District Councillors in an effort to progress this matter.

The barrier erected across the path near Sidmouth Close adjacent to Graham Way road. The Footpaths Officer advised that this matter has been referred to the Highways section as this barrier is regarded as a Highways matter. The Footpaths Officer has requested that DCC Highways contact the Clerk regarding this matter.

The steps leading from Graham Way road down to the path that runs across the field. These steps were considered by the Footpaths Officer to be an acceptable standard.

Finally, the stile at the bottom of the field was looked at and the Footpaths Officer commented that the stile was not considered a crossing hazard as it was of little height and did not form an obstruction and would not be replaced.

### **Site meeting with Environment Agency regarding the bank side erosion.**

The Clerk provided copy of letter received from the Environment Agency concerning the site visit and advised Members that he had since written to both the District and County Councils regarding any 'riparian landowner' responsibilities that they may have. If these prove negative the Clerk will then pursue this matter through a site meeting with both District and County Councillors in an effort to progress this matter.

Members raised further concerns regarding trees that have been cut down and left lying in the stream and asked the Clerk to contact the District to have it cleared.

The Clerk will meet with a local Member to look at the other section of the stream where bank side erosion is occurring.

The Clerk had received a response from the District of Easington concerning the problem of Ivy growing on the trees. The Clerk advised that the Tree and Woodland Officer had replied stating that 'Ivy does not directly affect the health of trees it grows on and only uses the tree as a means of support. It is an essential component of a woodland habitat and has enormous wildlife value, providing food and shelter for a diverse range of organisms. As Dalton le Dale contains areas of ancient semi-natural woodland it is not considered appropriate to remove ivy from trees as it is an integral part of the native woodland ecosystem'.

### **Other items**

A reply is received from the District of Easington with regards to the Bollard in Dalton-le-Dale that will be reinstated.

The unkempt land to the rear of Dalton Heights near Walpole Garage site will be levelled. Land in the vicinity to the rear of Dalton Heights is not owned by the District but is maintained from an amenity value to keep the area tidy. Some areas where the soil has been mounded can not be levelled as this will affect the foundations of adjacent private boundary fences. Rocks and concrete also protrude through the soil making grass cutting

operations a problem and dog fouling persists in this area making strimming works a further hazard. Vegetation is therefore controlled by weed killing.

Members commented of the re-measuring that was taking place in Dalton-le-Dale with a theodolite. It would appear that from enquiries the flood map for the area is being reassessed.

### **13. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

The Clerk provided a copy of the estimate received from DCC for the verge hardening to Overdene Estate. Members requested the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Dave Battensby welcoming the consideration of funds towards this project from both DCC Highways and potentially the County Councillor.

The Clerk advised that he had also received a cost from the District of Easington for this work valued at £1,050 + VAT. However, in this case the kerb could not be lowered as this would increase the gradient (crossfall of the hard surface area) creating a danger for pedestrians and wheelchair users should they stray from the path. The Clerk advised that he has asked the Engineer to reconsider this scheme and to put forward alternative ideas.

The Clerk advised that a costing was also received from the District of Easington for a footpath adjacent the stream. The footpath would be 257m long, 1.5m wide with timber edging and have carboniferous limestone surface. Estimated cost was £17,713 + VAT. The Clerk is requested to source further costings on this potential project.

### **14. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

None received.

### **15. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Members moved the financial report given by the Clerk.

### **16. BANK MANDATE CHANGE FORM**

The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting a continuation sheet from the Bank to complete the change of details and would seek signatures from Members to complete the form when received.

### **17. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Nothing to report.

### **18. CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk had received copy of the Coast and Countryside Rangers Newsletter. Members agreed that it is left on display in the WI Hall.

The Clerk advised on the Action Packed Futures Festival. Members moved that the item be received.

The Clerk advised that he had received information regarding the development of Parish Plans. Members expressed an interest in this matter and agree that the Clerk pursue this matter further.

The Clerk advised that he had received information on the North East of England Regional Spatial Strategy that provided the opportunity to submit comments. Members agree that on this occasion they do not want to provide any feedback.

The Clerk advised that he had received information regarding joining the Society of Local Council Clerks. Membership fees for a Council of this size would be £85 and at present the joining fees of £9 is being waived. Members agreed to fund this opportunity.

The Clerk had received an invitation for a representative to attend the Stakeholder Event for the District of Easington Play Strategy to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00am till 12.00 at Seaton Holme, Easington Village. Members agreed that the Chairman attend.

## **19. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Members report that the central conifers in the floral displays have been blown over and need replacing. A Member would contact Horns regarding this.

Members report that the hand rail on the footpath from the playground to the B1285 had rotten posts. Clerk will forward this to the Footpaths Officer at DCC.

Members raised concerns regarding the outstanding replies from the DCC Highways concerning various matters that have been raised. Members therefore request the Clerk to write to DCC Highways asking when replies will be made to those matters raised.

Members advised of the East Durham Artists Network (EDAN) event being held in Dalton-le-Dale over the weekend 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June. Whilst this event will soon take place Members expressed an interest in supporting this event. The CA will be meeting with EDAN soon and Member representation will discuss possible Parish Council support.

Community Association were hosting a BBQ on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Members report that picnic tables are damaged and one has been thrown into the stream. Clerk will contact Seaham Town Council regarding this.

## **20. NEXT MEETING**

5<sup>th</sup> July 2007.