Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
held THURSDAY, 8th May 2008.

Present: Councillor W Kennedy **(Chairman)**
Councillors: M Oliver, M Hepplewhite, S Richardson, A Westmorland, M Gustard, L Keegan, R Olaman.
Public: 2 residents of the Parish were in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES
None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
One Cllr declared an interest in a planning matter.

3. POLICE REPORT
Not present at meeting.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS
None.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 3rd April 2008 which had been circulated to Members previously were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5a. Matters arising from that meeting.
Members queried the Clerk's action in writing to the Planning department requesting a site meeting concerning the siting of a security caravan at the Poultry Farm site as it was discussed at the meeting that Members would walk the area prior to make observation on this matter. The reply from the Planning department did not consider a site meeting necessary as none of the Particulars of Decision had been infringed. Members requested that this matter be kept on the agenda until such time that they are satisfied that the Particulars of Decision are met.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a). Members received the information provided by the Clerk on the Local Government Review – Launch events and update.
b). The Clerk advised of the receipt of the latest edition of the Valuing People March 2008 Newsletter.
c). The Clerk advised of the receipt of the Open Space Spring 2008 Magazine.
d). The Clerk advised of the receipt of the latest edition of the Countryside Voice Magazine.
e). The Clerk advised of the receipt of the CDALC Newsletter that contained information regarding the changes to the criteria for Quality Council Status.
f). The Clerk advised of the receipt of information from Durham County Council that provides access to Durham County Council's Corporate Procurement Services.
g). The Clerk advised of information received from the County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership regarding training opportunities for Members.
h). Members received the information regarding the District of Easington's decision on Allowances.
i). The Clerk advised of the information received from the National Employers for Local Government Service concerning the NJC Car allowances and VAT petrol element.
j). Members received the reply from the Director of Community Service at the District of Easington concerning the Recycling Collection.
k). The Clerk advised of the receipt of the District of Easington's Fly Tipping Campaign and had duly placed the posters in the notice boards.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Proposals.

a). Proposal: Rear Conservatory (copy enclosed).
At: Gloucester House, The Dene, Dalton-le-Dale

The Clerk advised that he had circulated this proposal to Members in the Dene and had also received a copy of the Planning Permission for this proposal. Members both received this proposal/approval with no concerns raised.

b). Proposal: Two storey side and single rear extension - resubmission (copy enclosed).
At: Haytor House, The Dene, Dalton-le-Dale.

Members expressed concerns that this resubmitted proposal may still incur boundary wall and chimney flew issues and that those parties involved were pursuing a civil route to resolve these matters. Members requested the Clerk to write to the Planning department expressing the concerns on this proposal and ensure that the council is providing adequate information to those residents concerned in such proposal.

c). Members received the reply from the District of Easington concerning the Siting of the Static Security Caravan and had discussed this matter under matters arising.

d). Special Meeting to Discuss the Planning Application for new build at Daelton, Dene Road held on the 30th April 2008.

The Clerk advised that he had forwarded Members concerns and objections regarding this proposal to the Planning Department.

8. <u>HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS</u>

a). **Hand Rail to the footpath at the rear of St Andrew's Church.** The Clerk advised that the Public Rights of Way Officer at DCC had referred the repairs as a high priority. Members requested that this matter be agended until it was repaired.

b). **Overdene Estate verge hardening scheme.** Members received the reply from the DCC Highways section and the Clerk further advised that the local DCC Members had been contacted for a possible donation. In view of the recent elections and the new appointments for the Unitary Authority Members requested the Clerk to write to the newly elected Councillors seeking a possible donation.

c). Members received the correspondence from DCC Highways regarding the request for 40mph road markings.

d). Members had taken photographs of the new estate in Seaham that had road markings. Members requested the Clerk to write to DCC Highways with copies of these photographs as evidence in support of the Council's request for similar road markings in Dalton Heights.

9. <u>ENVIRONMENT</u>

a). **Stream Fissure.** Members considered the reply from the District of Easington that had been forwarded by John Cummings MP. The Clerk also read out the most recent correspondence received from Brian Weatherall from the District of Easington that contained the same information regarding the fissure but also gave an explanation as to why the cleansing of the stream had not been undertaken. Members expressed their concerns regarding this reply and requested the Clerk to write to the Leader of the Council; the Director of Community Services and to the recently elected New Unitary Authority Members outlining the past history and the attempts of the Parish Council in trying to get the stream cleansed.

b). **Ivy on Trees**. Members considered the reply from Durham County Council and requested the Clerk to write to the District of Easington providing a map of the area and to enquire if the District of Easington can address this problem.

c). **Tree along Graham Way.** Members considered the reply from Jim Jones at the District of Easington and requested the Clerk to enquire through Jim Jones if this letter had been sent to residents in the vicinity as the content of the letter did not contain sufficient warning to this illegal

action. The Clerk also advised Members that following a recent site meeting there was no evidence of encroachment by extending garden fence boundaries over the public amenity open space or road side verge.

d). **Village Green.** Two Members had visited the village green and thereafter had written a resume that was circulated to Members regarding the possibility of undertaking an environmental improvement project on the village green.
In considering this potential environmental improvement the Clerk is requested to determine boundaries of responsibility/land ownership through the Land Registry and thereafter to arrange a meeting with Groundwork regarding the possibilities. Members noted that some sections of fencing along the highway were rotten and the Clerk is requested to forward this to DCC for repairs. It was also noted by Members that this section of the stream was in need of a cleansing.

10. OPEN SPACES SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Members agreed to renew the Annual Subscription at the rate of £30.00.

11. FLORAL PLANTERS

Planting of Floral Tubs. Members agreed to renew the floral displays with the quotation from Horn's and the Clerk is requested to source more quotations for next year.
Watering of Floral Tubs. The Clerk advised that he had received a quotation from J&D Gardening Service to undertake the watering at £40.00 per occasion. Members could not agree to this cost and requested the Clerk to make further enquiries with Horn's regarding their ability to undertake this work and the frequency needed due to the water retention system installed.

12. RENEWAL OF INSURANCE

Members agreed to the Annual renewal charge put forward by Allianz Insurance.

13. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk advised that none had been received.

14. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk advised that he had received the invoice from John Robson for the delivery of the newsletters. Members agreed the payment. Members moved the financial report put forward by the Clerk.

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

16. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report.

17. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members expressed their concerns at the apparent flattening of the road humps along the unclassified road in Dalton-le-Dale. It is apparent the motorists are using this road with speed and the Clerk is requested to contact DCC Highways regarding this matter.

A Member reported that there appears to be a new occupant in Grasmere House as the area has recently benefited from cleansing and a tidy up.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 5th June 2008