

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 1st October 2009

Present: Councillors: W Kennedy (Chairman), M Oliver, M Gustard, L Keegan, M Hepplewhite, C Olsen, J Humes and K Sutton.

Public: J & J, K Wright

82. APOLOGIES None.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

84. POLICE REPORT

None.

85. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS

Residents were notified of the council's decision to undertake a further section of verge hardening to Overdene Estate and the Clerk would do a letter drop informing the estate of its decision.

Resident again raised the issue of the site line at Overdene junction and that the trees had not been cut back. The Chairman and Clerk advised that this matter is being pursued.

Residents advised of works being undertaken by NEDL to the West side of the Times Inn Bank where trees were interfering with electric cables. This may result in some trees being pruned.

Residents enquired if the Overdene junction could have a mirror install. The Chairman advised that this matter had been refused by the DCC Highways.

The Chairman advised that she had observed traffic surveys being carried out in the area and residents reporting unmarked Police Cars also in operation.

Residents questioned why the police were not in attendance.

86. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 3rd September 2009.
These were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from that meeting. None.

87. CORRESPONDENCE

- a). Members received the DCC Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2008/09 Annual Report.
- b). Members received a copy of the County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership and it was agreed for the council to send two delegates plus the Clerk to this free training session.
- c). Members received notice of the Easington Police Community Consultative Event and it was agreed for two members to attend.
- d). Members received copies of the LCR magazine.
- e). Members received the Sustenance newsletter.
- f). Members received the CPRE Autumn 2009 newsletter.
- g). Members received the invitation to the DRCC Autumn meeting.

88. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) The Clerk provided members with copy of information regarding the resubmission of the application for Wind Turbines at Hawthorn.

- b) The Clerk advised that the Easington Planning Office had provided an update on their enquiries concerning the developments at the Poultry Farm. The site had been visited by the Planning Investigation Officer who advised that the ‘containers’ and ‘road planings’ found on the site constituted development and require planning permission. To this regard, a retrospective planning application would be submitted of which the Parish Council would receive information as part of the consultation process.
- c) The Planning Investigation Officer had also viewed the rear of St Cuthbert’s Terrace in respect of the breach of the old wall. This breach could not be found and even if there was a breach it would not be covered by planning law and therefore no action can be taken.
- d) The Clerk advised that no planning decision had been reached concerning the proposal at Fairfields.

89. USE OF PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

The council discussed this matter and it was agreed for the Clerk to draft out a policy for the council’s consideration at the next meeting.

90. CONTRIBUTION TO YOUTH WORKS IN MURTON EAST WARD

The Police and Youth Workers for the area had approached the Parish Council seeking a contribution towards the development of youth activities in the area. Having considered this matter it was resolved to donate £50 to this cause.

91. NJC PAY AWARD - 2009

The Clerk advised that the NJC for local government employees had reached a settlement. This would see a 1% pay award for the Clerk to be back dated to April. Members agreed to accept the NJC settlement and for the Clerk to back date the pay settlement in next month’s payroll.

92. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a). **Dalton Heights 40mph road sign.** The Clerk advised that no action had taken place since the site meeting and would again write to DCC to have the foliage cut back and signs cleaned.
- b). **Sidmouth Road Barrier.** The Clerk advised that both he and a member had met with a representative from DCC Highways and, subject to funding, the Highways Section will undertake a repositioning of the barrier later in the year.
- c). **Unclassified Road (The Dene).** The Clerk advised that he had received a letter from DCC Highways stating that the matter of improving the severity of the road humps was being investigated.

93. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Fencing along stream bank side.** The Clerk advised that no news had been received from DCC on this matter.
- b). **Collapsed header wall and pipe outlet at stream.** The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Northumbrian Water on this matter.
- c). **Village Green.** The Clerk advised that preliminary discussion had been made with Groundwork East Durham regarding the possibility of a grant application to fund the cost of producing the plans for the site’s improvement. The Clerk will be meeting with Groundwork to pursue this matter. As part of the village green improvement plan it was agreed for the Clerk to purchase up to £50 of Crocus, Snowdrops and Daffodils and liaise with Probation Services for the labour to undertake the planting. Members would also like to be involved in the planting process.

- d). **Rose Bed at St Andrews Junction.** The Clerk advised that he is currently seeking costs from Easington Office Engineers regarding the seat replacements for this site and the village green. The Clerk is also seeking a cost to repair the broken lat on the seat at the end of the village.

94. THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE – ELECTORAL REVIEW IN COUNTY DURHAM

The Clerk advised that he had downloaded a lengthy report from the Boundary Committee that had a number of issues relating to the electoral arrangements in County Durham. Whilst at this moment in time the review did not deal with small parishes, there was some mention of parish electoral arrangement to larger town councils. The report was passed to the Chairman for information and the opportunity to read at length.

95. HALF YEAR FINANCE REPORT 2009-2010

The Clerk circulated the half year Statement of Accounts and Bank Reconciliation advising that expenditure was as planned with only small variances that were due to lower interest rates and below budget pay settlement. Members approved the half year financial position.

96. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month. Members agreed to the payments/invoices as shown.

97. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO COMMUNITY ACCOUNT

The Clerk advised that the transfer of funds from the Treasury Deposit Account could not be undertaken as this account is locked until January 2009. The Clerk advised that a transfer of £1,000 from the BRT Account needed to be made in view of the anticipated expenditure. Members agreed for the transfer to be made.

98. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that it was not necessary for J Higgins (Parish Council representative to the AAP) to attend the meeting as she was in a position to advise the council on all matters pertaining to the AAP since gaining the position of public membership.

The Chairman advised that at a recent meeting of the AAP 10 issues were discussed and five were given priority with Youth issues being the most important. The Easington AAP has concerns over the level of funding available (£150k) which is not enough for the task ahead and will lobby for a fairer share in years to come.

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman had attended the launch of the George Elmy Life Boat (restoration project) along with other dignitaries from around the county that provided a further opportunity to network.

99. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised that he had attended the HMRC Payroll event in Durham.

The Clerk advised that a draft Charter between the new Durham County Council and local councils was in circulation. This draft was passed to the Chairman for her perusal.

The Clerk advised that DCC was seeking support from local councils for the City of Culture Bid 2013. Members requested the Clerk to forward a letter of support.

The Clerk advised that he had received notification of the DRCC Autumn meeting and circulated the Autumn magazine.

The Clerk advised that he had received confirmation from DCC Easington Office that the Verge Hardening to Overdene would be undertaken in this financial year.

The Clerk advised that Durham County Councillor E Bell would like to attend the meeting to hear of projects that may require use of his funds.

The Clerk advised members of the change of date for the training sessions previously booked.

100. MEMBERS REPORTS

A member advised of their attendance at the AAP meeting that was tasked with Education in the area and would continue to attend such meetings.

Members advised the Clerk that a Dog Bin had been removed at the end of Dene Road. Members requested the Clerk to enquire through the Easington Office as the bin may be one of those that is paid for by the parish and therefore a reduction in the council's charges may be applicable.

Members suggested that the floral tubs needed to be levelled as they are sloping badly. Clerk to make enquiries with Easington Office.

Members advised that their attendance to the training event was well worth it and had provided valuable information on local councils.

Members sought advice from the Clerk with regards to tree issues in private/adjoining gardens.

A member had attended the Seaham Development (Destination Plan) event that looked at the long term development of Seaham that included the Harbour/Marina, Visitor Centre, Cafe, Restaurant, retail outlets, Hotel, Film Studio, Sharpley Hall, new Market, Caravan Park, Heritage Trail and the redevelopment of St John's Square are some of the schemes in the long term plans.

Members advised that signage in the parish is still covered in graffiti. The Clerk would again report this to the Easington Office.

101. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 5th November 2009