

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 2nd July 2009

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

Public: J Arpino, C Walton, K Wright and M Lennox.

46. **APOLOGIES** Cllr. S Richardson.

47. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

48. **POLICE REPORT**

Not present at the meeting however they had provided a written report which the Clerk read out.

Police report for period 3rd June to 1st July 2009

Rowdy nuisance. There have been 3 reports of rowdy nuisance in the past month, with 2 of these calls regarding the new play park on Dene Road. Both calls are reporting youths using the park inappropriately. This situation will be monitored and the youths dealt with appropriately.

Criminal damage. There have been no reported criminal damage incidents in the period.

Burglary. There have been no reported burglaries in the period.

Theft. There have been no reported thefts in the period.

Drugs. There have been no reports of drug activity in the period.

Theft from motor vehicles. There have been no reported thefts from motor vehicles.

A very quiet month on all fronts. This is due to the increased patrols through the village. Any other issues please contact Seaham Police Station or email graham.stephenson@durham.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 7186 Stephenson

Members advised that they had contacted the local police during the month regarding heavy vehicles passing through the Dene during early hours of the morning taking road planings to the Poultry Farm off Dene Road in Dalton-le-Dale. Members expressed concerns at these works and requested the Clerk to contact the planning section to inform of this development and to enquire how the planning authority was monitoring the recently approved planning application concerning developments on this site.

49. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Residents of Overdene Estate advised the council of correspondence received regarding the dirt track (this was read out by the Clerk). Other residents in the estate have not received such information from their solicitors. Residents further advised that no site visit or any decision made had been made by the Land Registry on this matter and this issue is likely to go to adjudication.

Residents raised the issue of speeding traffic on the Times Inn Bank and the limiting site line at the Overdene Junction. This was acknowledged by the Chairman and this matter would be reported to the AAP meeting. The Clerk further advised that a site meeting was arranged for 3pm on the 8th July involving the DCC Highways Engineer, Easington Area Engineer and our local County Councillor Alan Napier. Local representation would be made at this meeting with the Clerk.

Residents enquired if the next Ward Surgery could be held in the Parish Hall. Clerk would forward this request to Cllr A. Napier.

The Clerk advised the residents of Overdene Estate that he had recently received the costing from the Easington Area Engineers for the verge hardening scheme in the estate. This matter would be agended at the next council meeting for members consideration.

Resident raised complaint regarding the recent smell, where fertiliser had been spread in nearby fields. The Chairman advised that this complaint had been received on several occasions and despite the parish council's efforts and enquiries nothing could be done. The Environment Agency has approved the use of this fertiliser and despite the smell nothing could be done.

50. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 3rd June 2009.

These were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from that meeting.

The Clerk advised that he had made preliminary investigations regarding the breach of the rear wall at St Cuthberts Terrace. Members requested the Clerk to advise the Planning Authority of this breach and the informal sand stone steps that have been made down to the stream. Members also requested the Clerk to advise planning that this wall may have some flood defence value to the surrounding area and that this wall is of old traditional stone construction worthy of protection.

Members advised that the road signage was still covered in graffiti and needed cleaning. The Clerk would again report this to DCC Highways.

51. CORRESPONDENCE

- a). The Clerk advised that he had received a Summary Report on the AAP Launch Event. This is to be circulated to all members at the next meeting of the council.
- b). The Clerk advised that he had received information concerning the County Durham Sports and Physical Activity Awards 2009. The Clerk had displayed the notices in the notice boards.
- c). Members received the information from DCC concerning the opportunity to take part in consultation for the Local Development Framework and local Area Action Plans for Peterlee and Easington. The Chairman expressed an interest in this matter and the Clerk would forward her contact details to the Planning Policy Manager.
- d). Members received the information from the North Area Police Commander that outlined the police priorities.
- e). Members received the CDALC May edition newsletter.
- f). Members received the County Durham Sustainability Newsletter.
- g). Members received the Open Space Summer newsletter 2009.
- h). Members received the CPRE Fieldwork Newsletter (June 2009).
- i). Members received the CPRE Overview Summer 2009 newsletter.
- j). Members received the LCR Summer Magazine.
- k). Members received the DCC Customer satisfaction survey for fleet services.

52. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk advised of the receipt of information concerning a planning proposal.

Proposal: Kitchen Extension

At: 27 Jubilee Avenue

Members had no concerns or objections to this proposal.

53. ROYAL GARDEN PARTY INVITATION

The Clerk advised that the Chairman was now in receipt of her invitation. The Chair advised that Hotel and Train travel costs were £439.00. It was **resolved** that both the Chairman's and Partner's travel and accommodation expenses would be funded by the Parish Council.

54. QUALITY PARISH BURSARY SCHEME

The Clerk advised that he had received the half year return in respect of the £750 bursary from DRCC. The Clerk provided a breakdown of expenditure to date concerning this bursary which was agreed by members. This would be forwarded to DRCC for their records.

55. DCC PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS RENEWAL

The Clerk advised of the Service Level Agreement from DCC to provide Playground Inspections for the coming year with the costs being comparable with previous years. It was resolved to accept this proposal. The Clerk would forward the signed agreement to DCC.

56. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS – MEMBERSHIP 2009

The Clerk advised that renewal of membership would cost £94 for this year. It was agreed that this membership would be paid by the council.

57. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a). **Street Light No 1309** at rear of Dalton Heights. Members advised that this matter had still not been addressed. The Clerk would again advise DCC Street lighting that an appropriate fixed deflector was needed.
- b). **Escallond Drive signage.** The Clerk advised that DCC had attended to the misspelt signage by sticking an adhesive letter over the incorrect one to amend this misspelling.
- c). **DCC Bank Side erosion.** The Clerk advised that DCC had replied on the need to renew the fencing but could not totally renew the full stretch.
- d). **Dalton Heights 40mph road sign.** Members advised that the 40mph sign at Dalton Heights roundabout (from Graham Way) was still missing. Members requested the Clerk to report this matter to DCC Highways. The Clerk further advised that a site meeting was arranged for 3pm on the 8th July meeting at Overdene Junction to discuss the site line and speeding issues on the Times Inn Bank. DCC Highways, Easington Area Engineering and the local County Councillor A Napier would be in attendance.
- e). **Reposition of Barrier at Sidmouth Close.** Members advised that works had been undertaken to address the council's complaints but the repositioning is still not right. The Clerk was requested to forward this issue to DCC and suggest that a site meeting be arranged.

58. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Cleansing of stream.** Members received copy of the correspondence from the DCC Engineer based in Easington and advised that it had become difficult to determine the work actually undertaken due to the level of growth/foilage. The issue will have to be revisited in autumn when more clear observations can be made.
- b). **Stream Fissure.** Members advised that the site was still needing a tidy-up and reinstating. Members requested the Clerk to contact DCC on these matters and to inform the DCC local member.
- c). **Village Planters.** Several Cordylines had been stolen and replanted by Horns. However, Members advised that three more had been stolen and these were replaced by Members.
- d). **Village Green.** Members provided the Clerk with the type of street furniture they would like to see. The Clerk would source competitive prices.

59. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month. The Clerk advised of additional invoices received concerning the erecting of the swings in the park and the tickets for the civic ceremony. Members queried the donation made to Haswell & District Mencap and in error the Clerk had made the cheque to the wrong value, this matter was corrected. Members agreed to the payments/invoices and moved the Clerk's financial report.

60. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of her attendance to a meeting that discussed how the AAP's will work and how Town and Parish Council issues can be brought into this arena. At present the AAP's are recruiting the public appointments. The Chairman advised that she had made an application for a public position and is waiting news of her interview.

61. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had brought along the original APM minute book prior to having it sent to the County Archive. The Clerk advised that Cllr J Higgins (the Parish Council representative on the AAP) will attend the council meeting in October.

The Clerk advised that he had recently received the costing for verge hardening at Overdene Estate. This will be agended in September.

The Clerk advised that it would be necessary to undertake a Training Analysis of all Members, Annual Risk Assessment and a review of the council's Financial Regulations. These matters will be agended in the autumn.

The Clerk advised that DCC are likely to close the Print Room services at Easington which would be a loss of a local service.

62. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members advised that a supply of Poop Scoops are available for the public and can be obtained from the Community Association.

Members advised that they were aware of new lighting to be installed in the parish and nobody had received any notice of this.

Members expressed concerns that a letter had been received by the council and as yet the author had not received a reply. Both the Chairman and Clerk advised that this matter had been considered and was not agended and the Clerk had written to the author with an explanation. The Clerk would send a further letter on this matter and personally check it had been received.

Members had received complaints from residents who expressed concerns at the heavy traffic that had been accessing the Poultry Farm delivering road planings during late hours and into the early morning. The local police were advised of this but could not undertake any action. Members requested the Clerk to contact the Planning Section to enquire if this matter is within the conditions of site approval and to also enquire how they are monitoring this development.

Members advised that road signage is still covered in graffiti and needed cleaning. The Clerk is requested to report this matter to DCC Highways.

63. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3rd September 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIRMAN
3rd September 2009