

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 3rd June 2009

Present: Councillors: W Kennedy (Chairman), M Oliver, M Gustard, L Keegan, M Hepplewhite, C Olsen, J Humes, S Richardson and K Sutton.
Public: K Wright, C Walton, M Lennox, J Arpino and S Humes.

28. **APOLOGIES** None

29. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The Chairman advised the Council that following due process the council had co-opted Christopher Kevin Sutton and Julie Humes onto the Council. The Clerk provided the new members with an introductory pack and had them sign for the Acceptance of Office.

30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

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

Police report for period 3rd May to 3rd June 2009

Rowdy nuisance. There have been 3 calls of nuisance behaviour in the period, with 2 calls coming from Castlebeck Care Home and 1 from Dene Road.

Suspicious persons. There have been 5 reports of suspicious persons/vehicles with no particular hotspots.

Criminal damage. There have been 2 reported criminal damages, one at Dene Road concerning the park and the other from Castlebeck Care Home.

Burglary. There has been one reported burglary from Castledene. An unknown person approached the property and removed the lawnmower, however after making off the lawnmower was left on the pavement.

Theft. There has been one reported theft on Stockton Road.

PCSO 7186 Stephenson

Members advised that they had during the month reported other matters to the police where milk had been stolen from doorsteps and the bottles smashed along Dene Road. Members also reported groups of people in the early hours of the morning (perhaps Badger baiting) and shooting in the fields. It was observed that these people are coming into the area in a white van which is being parked in various areas of the parish. Having reported these matters, the Police advised that they were targeting youth activities and couldn't do much at the present time.

32. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Residents advised the council of a near miss on the Times Inn Bank when pulling out of the Overdene junction. The vehicle coming down the bank was a Police van that after the near miss then put on the siren.

Members advised that the Community Association was trying to resurrect the Police Liaison Meetings in the Parish Hall as these had been useful for the residents of the parish to meet the police and put forward their issues.

Residents of Overdene Estate advised that progress on the dirt track ownership and limiting usage had not progressed much. They had written to their MP J Cummings but had not received a reply. County Councillor A Napier had visited the site and sent a letter of support to the Land Registry for the residents.

33. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 6th May 2009.

These were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from that meeting.

- Item 8. Members enquired of any news on the Fairfields planning proposal. The Clerk advised that none were received.
- Item 19a Members advised that the DCC Street lighting unit had put tape round the unit to create a deflector that was unsatisfactory. The Clerk was requested to report this matter to DCC Street Lighting.
- Item 19b Members advised that the street signage at Dalton Heights still had Escallond Drive misspelt and again requested the Clerk to raise this matter with DCC.

The Clerk gave an explanation for the minute and page numbering that is to be used for future records as this was requested for the CiCLA as it is regarded as good practice.

34. CORRESPONDENCE

- a). Members received the COASTLINES Spring 2009 newsletter.
- b). Members received the notification from DCC of the cessation of the Tidy District Easington Committee. This matter will now fall under the new AAP structure. Two members expressed an interest in attending the future AAP meeting and the Clerk would forward such information upon receipt.
- c). Members received the information from DCC concerning the Registered Trade Scheme. Members requested further leaflets for distribution in notice boards and communal buildings.
- d). Members received the information from CE Electric concerning the Priority Treatment.
- e). Members received the information concerning the opportunity of consultation on DCC In House Provided Mental Health Service. Members took this information away to read and reply back at next meeting.
- f). DCC Chairman's invitation to Annual Dinner and Proms in the Park at a cost of £40 per head. The Chairman proposed to use her allowance to pay for her attendance and **it was resolved that the accompanying member would be paid for by the council.**
- g). Members received the information concerning the next County Councillor surgery to be held in the Glebe Centre Murton on the 8th June at 6pm.
- h). Members received the letter from the Boundary Committee. Members provided an overview of the history fought to retain the parish of Dalton-le-Dale. In the discussion of LGR Members requested the Clerk to formally invite the Parish Council AAP representative to a future meeting of this council.

35. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk advised that no planning matters had been received in the last month.

36. GARDEN COMPETITION

The Clerk advised that only two entries were received. It was resolved that the competition would not proceed and members requested the Clerk to inform those who had entered of the council's decision.

37. 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 was in the process of preparing the return and will present to Members at the next meeting.

38. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a). **Street Light No 1309** at rear of Dalton Heights. Members advised that this matter had been attended to, but gaffer tape had been used and this was not a satisfactory outcome. Members requested the Clerk to inform DCC Street lighting that an appropriate fixed deflector was needed.
- b). **Escallond Drive signage.** The Clerk advised that he had reported the misspelt sign to the DCC area office for their attention.
- c). **DCC Bank Side erosion.** The Clerk advised that he had received a letter of acknowledgement from DCC on this matter.

- 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.
- e). **Reposition of Barrier at Sidmouth Close.** The Clerk advised he had informed DCC of this outstanding matter.

39. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Cleansing of stream.** Members advised that since the Chairman had walked the area with Officers from DCC no works had been undertaken. Members requested the Clerk to raise this matter with DCC and to inform the DCC Local Member for the area.
- 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.** The Clerk advised that the planting was complete and watering was being undertaken. The Clerk advised that because of the recent dry hot spell a further watering was instructed to the gardener. Members advised that some Cordylines have been taken and the Clerk is requested to contact Horn's to have these replaced.
- d). **Village Green.** The Clerk provided catalogues of street furniture and requested members to select a style of seating to replace the unit on the village green. Members preferred to make an environmentally friendly purchase and would look through the information to select.

40. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a). **Haswell & District Mencap.** It was resolved to donate £25 to this cause.

41. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month. Members agreed to the payment of these invoices and moved the Clerk's financial report.

42. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of her attendance at the Civic Service held in Durham Cathedral for the Chairman of Durham County Council. It was an excellent event with a very emotive service that included a celebration of youth achievements with readings and music also provided by young people.

43. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised members that he was making progress with the three failed units of the CiCLA.

44. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members advised that a terraced wall has been broken down to the St Cuthberts Terrace. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries regarding the land to the rear.

Members expressed concerns with the sight lines at St Andrews Church junction and requested the Clerk to contact DCC Highways to have the vegetation cut back.

Members advised that the Public Right of Way to the rear of St Andrews Church was becoming overgrown and the vegetation needed to be cut back.

Members advised that the track to the rear of Dalton Heights was experiencing nuisance traffic. Clerk is requested to report this to the Police and DCC as it is a Right of Way.

Members expressed concerns at the number of heavy vehicles passing through the Dene and that the signage to deter this could be larger. The signage was also covered in graffiti and needed cleaning. The Clerk is requested to report these matters to DCC Highways.

45. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd July 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIRMAN
2nd July 2009