

# Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

### held THURSDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

**Present:** Councillors: W Kennedy (Chairman), M Oliver, M Gustard, L Keegan, M Hepplewhite, C Olsen and J Humes.  
**Public:** J Arpino, C Walton, K Wright, PCSO G. Stephenson and Nigel Advent. C Remmer (Groundwork).

64. **APOLOGIES** Cllr. K Sutton.

65. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

66. **POLICE REPORT**

The Police gave a report that covered the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> July to date.

4 reports of nuisance (1 vehicle) arising from the Play Park and Plymouth Close.

No reports of criminal damage.

2 burglaries, St. Andrews Church and the Community Centre. A prolific offender has been arrested for these incidents.

The Chairman enquired if any electric fencing had been stolen as horses had escaped from fields. The Police advised that they had no records of this.

Members expressed concerns that the Play Park was attracting a number of youths causing nuisance and drinking there.

The Chairman enquired if there was any restrictions on the use of fire arms and members are aware of guns being used in the fields to the rear of Dene Road. The Police advised that there is an age limit of 17+ for using air weapons and that it must be used 50m away from roads. The situation is similar for bolt action/bullet guns. Where fire arms are being used they should have permission from the land owner.

Members also advised that 'lamping' was still being undertaken in the vicinity.

No reports of theft, drugs or motor issues had been received by the police during this period.

The police advised that their detection rate was up to 30% of reported incidents and that general crime has reduced by 13% in the area.

Since the PACT meeting £40,000 has been made available to fund youth work in Murton with input from Groundwork Youth Workers. Further funding is needed to support increased youth work and the Police enquired if the Parish Council would be able to make a contribution to the provision of youth workers in the area. The Chairman advised that this matter would need to be agended for the next meeting for the Council to consider.

67. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Residents advised that correspondence was received from the land registry concerning the 'dirt track' at Overdene and replies had been made.

68. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009.

**These were agreed as a true record.**

**Matters arising from that meeting.** Members advised that they remained unhappy with the works to the barrier on the footpath at Sidmouth and requested the Clerk to arrange a meeting with DCC Highways.

69. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

**These were agreed as a true record.**

## **70. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr. S. Richardson. She praised the Council for the time and commitment given to its community but unfortunately due to personal circumstances she has had to withdraw her services. Members requested the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Cllr. S. Richardson for her good work and commitment to her community. It was further resolved that the council would proceed to fill this vacancy in accordance with set procedure.

- a). Members received the July edition CDALC Newsletter.
- b). Members received a copy of the AAP Launch Event – Summary Report.
- c). Members received the information from the East Durham AAP – Update and First Meeting.
- d). Members received the Link newsletter (June edition).
- e). Members received the CPRE Fieldwork newsletter (September edition).
- f). Members received the Durham Miners Souvenir Brochure.
- g). The Clerk advised that due to short notice he had replied to the Durham County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009). In this reply the Clerk advised that he had included members concerns regarding developments in Murton and the A19 water run-off and previous flooding in the Dene.
- h). Members received the information from DCC regarding the Car Litter Campaign.

## **71. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) The Clerk provided members with copy of the ‘Particulars of Decision’ concerning the Poultry Farm off Dene Road. The Clerk advised that he had written to DCC and has received an acknowledgement stating that members concerns were being investigated. Members requested the Clerk to write to Planning Department advising that some conditions are being ignored and to seek evidence of the Planning Department’s monitoring of these ‘particulars of decisions’.
- b) Development to the rear of St Cuthbert’s Close. The Clerk advised that he had written to DCC and has received an acknowledgement stating that members concerns were being investigated.
- c) Proposal: Demolition and replacement of conservatory.  
At: 2 Agricultural Cottages  
The Clerk advised that this proposal had been approved by Planning.
- d) Proposal: 3 No Wind Turbines and associated cabin and access road.  
At: South Sharpley Farm, Seaton  
The Clerk advised that this proposal is resubmitted with amendments that reposition one of the Turbines.

The Clerk further advised Members that no information was received concerning the proposal at Fairfield’s, Dene Road.

## **72. EXTERNAL AUDIT – BDO STOY HAYWARD**

Members received the correspondence from the external auditor and it was **resolved** that the Council’s Annual Return be fully approved and accepted.

## **73. CIVIC INVITATIONS**

The Clerk advised that further invitations were up-coming from the Chairman of DCC. It would appear that some invitations have costs attached such as tickets and necessary travel expenses. From a budgetary view the council has made little provision for such invitations and the Parish Council needs to be conscious of this expenditure. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would keep full records of expenditure relating to this and update in the half year financial report.

## **74. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

- a). **Street Light No 1309** at rear of Dalton Heights. Members advised that this matter has been addressed by DCC.

- b). **Dalton Heights 40mph road sign.** The Clerk advised that a site meeting took place with D Battensby, B Weatherall, Cllr A Napier and members of the Parish Council and residents of Overdene regarding the Times Inn Bank on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009.  
The Clerk advised that no action had taken place since this meeting and would write to D Battensby to have the foliage cut back and signs cleaned as many traffic signs are obscure.
- c). **Verge Hardening in Overdene Estate.** Members agreed to proceed with the scheme of hardening the section of verge in front of 5 and 6 South View, Overdene. The Clerk was requested to contact the area Engineer and instruct this section to be done at the quoted cost of £2,036.31 (excluding VAT).
- e). **Unclassified Road (Dene Road).** Members received a copy of the correspondence sent to DCC Highways regarding traffic along this unclassified road. Members advised that they had been unhappy with the road humps since they were laid and requested the Clerk to forward a copy of this letter to D Battensby and ask if the road humps could be upgraded and a speed limit signage of 10mph erected.

#### **75. ENVIRONMENT**

- a). **Fencing along stream bank side.** Members advised that further damage had occurred and that DCC had been seen measuring the site with possible renewal.
- b). **Collapsed header wall and pipe outlet at stream.** The Clerk had reported this matter to DCC who had passed this matter to Northumbria Water who are to investigate.
- c). **Village Green.** The Clerk advised that he had been in discussion with Groundwork East Durham regarding the possibility of grant funding to undertake the cost of producing the plans for this site. If applicable a grant application will be made.
- d). **Rose Bed at St Andrews Junction.** The Clerk advised that he had received an email from Stuart Clasper at the DCC Easington Office that they would clear the rose bed and return the land to grass, place a suitable hard standing for a planter and renewal of the litter bin. The seat would remain a matter for the Parish to arrange. The Clerk further suggested that DCC Easington Office could replace the seat funded by the Parish Council making this into a feature area of the village. The same could also be asked to renew the seating on the village green and repair the broken lat to the seat at the other end of the village. Members requested the Clerk to seek costs from the Easington Office concerning these matters.

#### **76. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Members received the request for financial assistance from Butterwick Hospice Care.

#### **77. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month. Members agreed to the payments/invoices. The Clerk advised that Community Account was approaching a low level and in view of the anticipated expenditure it would be timely to transfer funds from the Treasury Deposit Account. It was resolved to transfer £3,000 and the Clerk was requested to make arrangements with the bank. Members moved the Clerk's financial report.

#### **78. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised of her attendance at the Royal Garden Party and the DCC Chairman's Reception at Auckland Castle. The Chairman had also been selected via interview process as a public member of the Easington AAP. As part of the APP the Chairman has since been selected to be part of the Financial Sub Group to the AAP.

The Chairman had also attended a meeting with members from Murton Parish Council concerning the use of the local County Councillors Budget for spend in the area of East Murton Ward (which covers part of Dalton-le-Dale). The Chairman had spoken highly of the Parish Council's desire to improve its environment and its projects of Overdene, seating and the village green. Members enquired if the County Councillor for Deneside Ward was doing a similar exercise. The Chairman advised that no contact had

been made by the County Councillor for the Deneside Ward and requested the Clerk to write to him regarding the opportunity to be involved in putting forward proposals for the use of this funding. The Chairman had attended a PACT meeting that was poorly attended. However Murton was highlighted as an area suffering from the lack of Youth Work.

Members gave their thanks to the Chairman for her attendance at these events and for promoting the Parish Council.

#### **79. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised that he had booked a place with HMRC for their Payroll Training to be held in Durham.

The Clerk distributed leaflets he had received on the East Durham Music Festival.

The Clerk advised that he would be attending the SLCC County Durham and Cleveland Branch Meeting at Peterlee.

The Clerk advised of the information received concerning the Durham Heritage Coast.

The Clerk advised of the next East Murton Ward Surgery to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September.

The Clerk advised of the training sessions being arranged by CDALC that would benefit new members and circulated the information. Members would contact the Clerk to advise of their attendance.

The Clerk advised that the CDALC were seeking nominations for the Executive Committee.

#### **80. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Members advised of a hole in the path at Devon House.

Members expressed concerns regarding the woodland around the Poultry Farm and requested the Clerk to contact Jim Jones regarding the maintenance of this woodland.

Members advised that road signs were still covered in graffiti.

The old Minute Book had been returned to the Clerk.

A member had attended the launch of Seaham Destination Development Plan and a follow up invitation would be received on this matter.

A member had also attended a meeting concerning Education/Deprivation in the area that advised of the poor statistics suffered in the Easington area. These statistics will be targeted through the efforts of the AAP.

The member representing the community association advised of the forthcoming coffee morning, the landscaping works around the centre and the need to create more storage space in the centre. A race night is planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> November and the centre is continuing to increase its usage.

#### **81. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009**