

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 4th February 2010

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

Public: M Lennox, K Wright, J & J Arpino, PCSO's C Douglas & G Stephenson, PC Nigel Advent.

144. **APOLOGIES** None.

145. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

146. **ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The newly co-opted member signed the acceptance of office.

147. **POLICE REPORT**

The police provided a report with incidents from the 1st January.

There were no reports of burglary and no reports of criminal damage.

One rowdy incident was reported at Plymouth Close where a youth was throwing snowballs.

A theft was reported at Dalton Care Home and Diesel stolen from Glebe Farm.

No reported vehicle nuisance or street drinking. Overall it had been a quiet period.

Members advised that street drinking was taking place at the Garage and that a lid had been wrenched off a Grit Bin and used as a sledge down the field bank.

Members enquired on the progress of the Youth Facility in Murton. The Police advised that it was one month away from completion. Members expressed an interest in the opening event of this facility.

The Chairman thanked the Police for their report and also commented on the Police presence in the area that was giving assurance to local residents.

148. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Residents expressed concerns with regards to the decision making process that ultimately led to the initial and additional verge hardening works in the Overdene Estate. The Chairman advised that all proposals put forward to the council are considered by all members and the council corporately agreed to progress those schemes that served the best interests of the parish and its residents.

Residents again advised that the hedgerow had not been cut back on the Time Inn Bank (B1285). Members advised that perhaps the prevailing weather conditions had prevented DCC from making progress on this matter. The Clerk advised that DCC Highways have informed the parish council of their intentions to undertake this work.

Residents also expressed concerns that during this winter period there was a lack of accessible grit-bins. The Chairman advised that the council would undertake a review of the grit-bin provision and forward findings to DCC Highways.

149. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 3rd December 2009.

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from that meeting.

None.

150. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a). The opportunity to attend the Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party was declined.

- b). Members received the CPRE North East – Overview Winter Newsletter.
- c). Members received the invitation from the Chairman of DCC and agreed for the Chairman and another member to attend the Evening of Classical Music in the Council Chamber on Friday 12th March. Clerk was requested to book 2 places.
- d). Members received a copy of the CDALC Newsletter.
- e). Members received the invitation from the Chairman of Seaham Town Council. The Chair and another member would attend and make their own arrangements.
- f). Members received copies of the LCR magazine.
- g). Members received the Coastline Newsletter – Winter 2010.

151. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) **Approval:** Retrospective 4 NO. Steel Storage Containers and surfacing of existing access track.
At: Land rear of Dene Road.
For: Mrs P Emmanuel.
 Members expressed disappointment at this approval and requested the Clerk to contact the planning section for a record of their site monitoring visit for this site's previous conditions of approval.
- b) **Approval:** Kitchen Extension.
At: 37 Dalton Heights.
For: Dr S Muscat
- c) The Clerk advised that no information was received regarding the Fairfields proposal.
- d) The Clerk advised of the recent information received concerning the resubmission of plans for 28 Jubilee Terrace. The Clerk would investigate this resubmission and advise local members as necessary.

152. PRECEPT 2010-2011

The Clerk advised that the most significant issue concerning the council's finances was the reduction in interest received for monies deposited. General expenditure continues to grow in line with inflation and there had been an increase in members expenses due to the Royal Garden Party and increased attendances to civic events with the new Unitary Authority.

The Clerk advised that it was not necessary to increase the precept but plans to continue spending reserves on projects would ultimately lead to a position whereby the council would have to make a large increase in the future years. Whilst reserves continuing to fall and interest on deposits are declining there was a need to consider a precept increase to avoid a significant increase in the future.

After considering matters **members agreed to a 2.5% increase, setting the precept at £12,587.** The precept request is to be forwarded to Durham County Council by the Clerk.

153. ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE

The Clerk advised that the council would need to alter its Standing Orders as they do not allow for sub committees at present. The Clerk would redraft Standing Orders as required.

Members suggested the sub-committee would meet quarterly, consist of 4 members, and have the power to co-opt in specialist knowledge from other organisations/agencies. A meeting would be scheduled for Thursday 8th April 2010 with the agenda to include; the village green, conservation status, trees/Ivy, grit bins and the stream.

154. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a). **Unclassified Road, The Dene.** The Clerk advised that he had not received a costing from DCC to upgrade the speed humps.
- b). **B1285, Times Inn Bank.** The Clerk advised that DCC had included the cutting back of the trees in the Arboricultural Schedule with no specific date given.
- c). **Ivy on Trees.** The Clerk advised that he had written to DCC Highways regarding the lack of progress on this matter and they have advised that they are investigating this matter.

155. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Collapsed header wall and pipe outlet at stream.** The Clerk advised that he had received a phone call from NWA who would be responding to this matter.
- b). **Village Green.** Members advised that they had met with Gemma Tate from Groundwork and an initial expression of interest has been made to the 'Changing Spaces' funding programme for the enhancement of this area.
- c). **Rose Bed at St Andrews Junction.** The Clerk advised that he has been in contact with the Easington Area Office and asked for the land to be tidied to coincide with the new seating installation.

156. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a) Members considered the request for financial support from the Great North Air Ambulance and agreed to donate £50 to this cause.
- b) Members considered the request for financial support for the George Elmy Appeal and agreed to donate £165 to this cause.

157. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month with invoices received. The Clerk advised of additional invoices received since preparing the agenda that also required payment. Members agreed to the invoices/payments for vouchers 101536 to 101543

158. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of her attendance on the 16th January for the formal signing of the Charter for Local Councils and Durham County Council.

The Chairman advised that she had received a letter from Solicitors concerning Overdene and the Clerk has sent an acknowledgement. The Clerk is to seek legal advice on this matter through the CDALC.

159. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised of the opportunity for members to partake in NHS stakeholder consultation exercise. The Clerk advised members of receipt of the Our Life magazine. The Clerk advised that he would be attending the local branch meeting for Clerks. The Clerk advised that a Training Statement of Intent is to be prepared and agended for members consideration.

160. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members reported that several areas in the parish had suffered severe problems during the periods of snow. A survey will be undertaken by the environment committee to assess grit/salt bins needs.

Members requested that the stream fence be agended for next meeting.

Members advised that the public right of way to the rear of Dalton Heights has suffered from vehicle trespass.

161. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4th March 2010