

# Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

### held THURSDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010

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

**Public:** M Lennox, K Wright, J Arpino, C Walton, D Rennoldson, G Gill. PCSO's C Douglas & G Stephenson.

162. **APOLOGIES** None.

163. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** A Member declared an interest in item 7a (Planning proposal at Fairfields, Dene Road).

164. **POLICE REPORT**

Since the previous meeting there had been 1 attempted burglary in Watson Close to a shed although nothing was stolen. No reports of criminal damage were received. Plymouth Close had reported a case of rowdy nuisance from young people. A trailer (estimated value £4,000) was stolen from the Dene. A report of vehicle nuisance from Glebe Farm was received with no vehicle registration number. Damage to the field was evident.

Members expressed concern to the police at the large vehicles passing through the Dene, who were ignoring signage and the weight limitations of the stream bridge. Argos vehicles were regularly seen. Police would forward this matter to the traffic section.

The Chairman advised that the Clerk had received a report from a resident in Weymouth Drive concerning incidents with young people. The police would make enquiries regarding these matters.

165. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Concern was raised by residents concerning the further resubmission of plans to develop Fairfields in Dene Road. From the plans provided there was no significant difference when compared to the previous proposal. The Chairman advised that the council had opposed this development previously and would repeat its concerns to the planning department on this resubmission. The Chairman would also seek the opportunity to address the planning meeting where a judgement on this matter would be given.

166. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

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

**Matters arising from that meeting.**

None.

167. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Members received the consultation papers on the Strategic Review of Residential Care Homes and Older People Service.
- b) Members received the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils, Agenda for 9th March and previous meeting minutes.
- c) The Clerk advised of the free website availability from DCC. Members agreed for the Clerk to pursue this opportunity.
- d) DCC – Shape our Equality Scheme. It was agreed for two members to attend this event and the Clerk to book places.
- e) The Clerk advised of the notification received from DCC of Town and Parish Council Conference proposed for the 19th July at County Hall
- f) Members received the agenda and minutes of the East Durham AAP.

- g) The Clerk advised of the information received from CDALC and the Revised Standing Orders (Part 1) produced by NALC. It was agreed for the council to purchase a copy of the new Standing Orders at a cost of £20.
- h) Members received invitation from the Mayor of STC for the Civic Charity Ball. It was agreed to fund the attendance of 1 member to this event.
- i) Members received the public consultation, Contaminated Land Strategy from DCC.
- j) Members received the Sustainable design, supplementary planning document (consultation) from DCC. Members would seek the opportunity to provide suitable photographs for the supporting competition.
- k) Members received the letter of thanks from County of Durham School Benevolent Fund for the donation provided.

#### **168. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Extensions to front, side and rear. Re-submission.  
At: Fairfield, The Dene.  
For: Mrs H Clarke  
This matter was discussed under representations from residents.
- b) Front porch and rear family room.  
At: 79 Weymouth Drive.  
For: Mr P Billingham  
No concerns raised on this proposal.
- c) Extension to rear of property  
At: 28 Jubilee Avenue  
For: Ms P Blakey  
No concerns raised on this proposal

#### **169. TRAINING STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Members considered the draft Training Statement of Intent and agreed its adoption.

#### **170. TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS**

The Clerk provided a Training Needs Analysis questionnaire and requested members to return their completed questionnaire at the next meeting. This would be used by the Clerk to source suitable training.

#### **171. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Clerk provided an advisory paper on this matter and after its consideration it was agreed that the Internal Auditing procedures were acceptable for the council.

#### **172. SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL, SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS.**

Members considered the request from Seaham Town Council (STC) and agreed to provide £250 for sponsorship of the Townwide Events provided by STC.

#### **173. 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 and would send a reminder.
- b). **B1285, Times Inn Bank.** The Clerk advised that DCC had included the cutting back of the trees in the Arboricultural Schedule with no action taken to date. Members requested the Clerk to send a reminder via DCC Highways (Head of Department).
- c). **Condition of Footpaths.** The Clerk advised that he had seen sections of footpath which had been marked for repairs and enquired if members had seen similar throughout the parish. Members advised that most areas in the parish were suffering from pot holes and deteriorating footpaths and requested the Clerk to write to DCC Highways requesting a full inspection and to seek information from them on their action to be taken.

Members advised that works to correct the position of the pedestrian barriers at Sidmouth Close had been undertaken.

#### **174. ENVIRONMENT**

- a). **Collapsed header wall and pipe outlet at stream.** The Clerk advised that no news of works to this matter were received.
- b). **Fencing along the stream near village green.** Members expressed their disappointment that DCC had not renewed the full fence. Members suggested that a further section of fencing is needed continuing on from this section along the perimeter of the village green and ending at the farm. The Clerk was requested to contact DCC on this matter to ascertain their responsibility and possible joint financing of the fence.
- c). **Village Green.** Members advised that an application to fund the village green was submitted through the Horticultural Society with news of this expected in 10 weeks.
- d). **Village seating.** The Clerk advised that 1 new seat was installed at St. Andrews junction and the seat to the village green would follow.

#### **175. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- a) Members considered the request for financial support from Mencap and agreed to provide £50.
- b) Members received the request for financial support from the Sunderland and North Durham Royal Society For The Blind.

#### **176. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month with invoices received. Members agreed to the invoices/payments for vouchers 101544 to 101548. The Clerk advised that he had omitted voucher number 101546 by error.

#### **177. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised of her attendance at the AAP meeting and civic duties at Seaham Town Council's Mayors Charity Casino Night. The Chairman also advised of the loan facility available to the Community and Voluntary Sector from East Durham Trust.

#### **178. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised that he was preparing to bind sufficient minutes to make 3 volumes and had received a quote of £86 + VAT per volume with secure collection of £15.00 from Shaws. Members agreed to these costs and instructed the Clerk to proceed.

The Clerk advised that he had received information from the Planning Officer concerning the Poultry Farm. The Clerk circulated copies for information.

The Clerk advised of the receipt of the Open Spaces Magazine.

The Clerk advised that he had received a book concerning the life of the former District of Easington; this was given to the Chairman.

#### **179. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Members expressed concerns at the level of dog fouling along the green belt adjacent to the stream. The Clerk was requested to contact DCC at the Easington area office to enquire for more lamp post stickers to be erected, to obtain a map of the area which highlights those areas where dog fouling is not permitted, and to request their surveillance team to observe this area.

Members advised that buses were speeding down the B1285 (Times Inn Bank). Clerk to forward this matter to local police.

Members advised that damage to the grass verge along Dene Road was evident as large vehicles (refuse collection) were encroaching. It was agreed that this matter be mentioned in the newsletter.

Members advised that no works had been done to the fountain and water continues to leak out and at times is freezing across the road creating a hazard. Clerk would contact DCC on this matter.

Members expressed concerns at the condition of the roads (pot-holes). The Clerk advised that he would be writing to DCC Highways on this matter.

**180. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010**