

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 5th November 2009

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

Public: J Arpino, K Wright, M Lennox, C Walton, G Gill, D Renneldson, Police Officer (x2).

105. APOLOGIES L Keegan.

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

107. POLICE REPORT

An update was given with regards to activity from the 1st October. 3 incidents of rowdy nuisance were reported at Dalton Heights (2) and Yarmouth Close. 2 burglaries, one at Brixham Close and an attempted entry at St Cuthbert's Terrace.

Criminal damage was reported at Weymouth Drive.

No incidents of street drinking or youth drinking.

1 motorcycle incident.

No thefts.

Members and Residents raised concerns regarding the speed of Police vehicles on the B1285 Times Inn Bank. This matter would be passed to the area Inspector.

108. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS

Residents gave thanks to the Parish Council for the support given in respect of the Planning proposal for Fairfield's. Many residents had put forward their objections to the Planning department on this proposal. The Chairman in return praised the local residents for their efforts in opposing this proposal.

Residents expressed their concerns that works to cut back the foliage on trees on the B1285 (Times Inn Bank) had not been undertaken. Members requested the Clerk to write to our local County Councillors and DCC Highways to express the Parish Council's disappointment at the lack of action.

Residents gave thanks to the Parish Council for the verge hardening scheme completed at Overdene and were pleased with the works and commented on the improvement it makes to the estate.

109. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 1st October 2009.

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

Matters arising from that meeting. Members expressed concerns that the graffiti was still prevalent on the road signage. The Clerk would report this matter to DCC (Easington cleansing).

110. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING held on the 22nd October 2009

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

111. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLOR (Edward Bell)

The Chairman welcomed Cllr E Bell whose ward area covers a section of this parish.

Cllr E Bell was thankful of the opportunity to visit local parish councils and meet parishioners as well. An overview was given of the new Unitary Authority and the working arrangements in the Seaham area and his involvement as a councillor for the area.

He advised of the new school being built on the old colliery site, but at present the Sixth form college would not be located there. Meetings are still being held regarding a new leisure complex with possible swimming pool. Efforts are being made for all under 19's to have free bus travel.

Using DCC councillor budgets, funding is being directed to build a BMX/Skateboard area in Seaham. This project has been agreed and supports the thematic approach of the AAP which has a clear focus on activities for young people.

He advised of the major works and proposals for the Docks and Marina.

This year's funding is fully committed but he would like to consider supporting local parish projects in his ward in future years.

The Chairman advised of the council's prolonged struggle to have works done on the Times Inn Bank and would be seeking support from him on this matter in the months ahead.

The Chairman thanked Cllr E Bell for attending. Cllr. Bell welcomed the opportunity to attend a meeting in the months ahead.

112. CORRESPONDENCE

- a). Members received the DCC Consultation on the Development of Travel Schemes and Alternatives to Bus Services across County Durham.
- b). Members received invitations from the Chairman of Durham County Council to attend a number of civic functions.
- c). Members received the invitation from the Chair of Durham County Council Standards Committee.
- d). Members received copies of the CDALC September newsletter.
- e). Members received the invitation from Seaham Town Council for Christmas Lights Switch-On Ceremony.
- f). Members received the information concerning dates for the AAP forum meetings.
- g). Members received the Open Space Society Autumn 2009 Magazine.
- h). Members received the LINK newsletter September 2009.
- i). Members received the NALC Annual Report and Accounts.
- k). Members received the information on the Registered Trade Mark Scheme.

113. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) **Proposed extension and detached garage to 28 Jubilee Avenue** The Clerk advised of this sizable development and was concerned that local people may have some objections to this proposal; however no residents had been in contact. Members expressed concerns at the size of the garage and whether this development could be used as a business premise. In view of the local member being absent the Clerk was requested to pass a copy of these plans to him for local consideration and reply as needed.
- b) The Clerk advised that he had received 3 copies of the **Durham County Plan: Core Strategy Issues Paper**. These would be circulated around the members.
- c) The Clerk reminded members of the places book for the Town and County Planning Event at Easington Office on the 18th November.
- d) The Clerk advised that no news of the planning proposal for Fairfields was received.

114. USE OF PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

A draft policy had been prepared by the Clerk for the Council's approval. This policy was agreed and would be displayed in the notice boards and added to the internet.

115. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk had provided members with a copy of the Annual Risk Assessment and it was agreed that the Council had no overt risks. It was agreed that an adequate risk assessment had been undertaken with an amendment to be made to the Financial Regulations of the council to include inspection of the cheque book(s) for missing vouchers at the regular meetings when signing of cheques takes place.

116. NEWSLETTER

The Clerk circulated a draft of the newsletter for this month which would be displayed in the notice boards with copies deposited in the Parish and Church halls. It will also be placed on the website. Members forwarded several amendments to the Clerk prior to its final publication.

117. CONTRIBUTION TO YOUTH WORKS IN MURTON EAST WARD

The contribution previously agreed by the council to support this project will be forwarded to Murton Welfare Association.

118. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a). **Unclassified Road, The Dene.** The Clerk advised of the correspondence received from DCC Highways concerning the unclassified road and the council's request for traffic calming measures. DCC Highways stated that they were unable to provide further repeater 30mph signs between the terminal signs as the legislation does not permit this (Highway Code Rule 124). In respect of the council's request for 10mph speed limit signs and the use of the road for Service Access only, this again could not be supported under the current legislation as this road is a public highway. The council's request to have the speed humps made more severe would be added to the local County Councillor's Pool List for their consideration. Furthermore, DCC Highways considered the speed humps to be within the current legislation and therefore they had no plans to alter them at this time. In considering this reply from DCC Highways it was resolved for the Clerk to seek a costing from DCC Highways so that the Parish Council could consider this matter and make a financial contribution to this road safety improvement.
- b). **B1285, Times Inn – Road Signage.** The Clerk advised of the correspondence received from DCC Highways which stated the overhanging vegetation obstructing the road signs would be passed to the Maintenance Engineer to be included in their ongoing programme of arboriculture works.
- c). **Completion of Overdene Verge Hardening Scheme.** The Clerk advised that the scheme was completed and is awaiting the invoice for this work.

119. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Fencing along stream bank side.** The Clerk advised that he had received notification from DCC Neighbourhood Services advising that the fencing would be repaired which involves temporary traffic lights. The works are programmed to start on the 4th January 2010 and may last up to 1 week.
- b). **Collapsed header wall and pipe outlet at stream.** The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Northumbrian Water on this matter. Members advised that some workmen had been to the site recently and therefore they are hopeful that some information may be forthcoming.
- c). **Village Green.** The Clerk advised that discussions with Groundwork East Durham regarding the possibility of a grant application to fund the cost of producing the plans were not applicable to the council and therefore an alternative is to be sought. The Clerk will seek other alternatives to this project. As part of the village green improvement plans a date for planting up the land with bulbs has not been arranged due to the lack of capacity from Probationary Services and BCTV.
- d). **Rose Bed at St Andrews Junction.** The Clerk advised that he is still waiting for a costing from Easington Office Engineers.
- e). **Woodland to the rear The Dene.** The Clerk advised of the reply received from DCC Easington Area Office who stated that they would not get involved in private matters and that there was nothing in the legislation that the council could use to ensure the owner maintains the woodland in any various methods available. Jim Jones (Tree and Woodland Office) was unaware of any attempts by the council to place a TPO over this site but would make further enquiries to his colleague (Gary Shears) on return from leave.

120. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month and the additional invoices received since preparing the agenda. Members agreed to the payments/invoices as provided for vouchers 101524 to 101532.

121. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of the 5 priorities selected by the AAP with Youth Issues being the most important. For the years to come the focus will be on education, transport and jobs.

The Chairman had attended the East Durham Trust Annual Conference that had a theme on healthy lifestyles, healthy eating, obesity and teenage pregnancy. Speakers from the Primary Care Trust were focussing their work on reaching into communities to spread the message. As part of 'getting into the community', East Durham Trust had won the contract to deliver a programme of Health Issues on this matter.

122. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised of the invitation received from the Citizens Advice Bureau to attend the AGM.

The Clerk advised of the receipt of the Countryside Voice magazine.

The Clerk advised that he had requested DCC Easington Office to take down the swings in the play area.

The Clerk advised that only one expression of interest has been received for the vacant councillor position with the closing date is drawing near.

The Clerk advised of the latest information received concerning the AAP forum meetings.

The Clerk advised that he had received information from George F White regarding the pruning/cutting back of trees in the play area that would take place soon.

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by a parishioner who was raising concerns that land was being excavated to the rear of a property in Dene Road. Members were not aware of any such works taking place.

123. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members advised that cars were parking on the grass along Dene Road. The Clerk would report this matter to DCC (Easington Office) for possible signage. Members also requested the Clerk to do a letter drop along this street to request parishioners to be mindful of their actions.

Members expressed concerns at the condition of the fountain in the Dene as it was leaking with water running over the road. The Clerk was requested to report this matter to DCC (Easington Office) to see if they can consider any action for it.

Members requested the Chairman to resurrect the Environment Sub – Committee next year.

Members advised of their attendance to training sessions with the County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership.

Several Members advised that they would be attending the Seaham Destination meeting.

124. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3rd December 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIRMAN
5th November 2009