

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 7th May 2009

- Present:** Councillors: W Kennedy (Chairman), M Oliver, M Gustard, L Keegan, M Hepplewhite and C Olsen.
- Public:** N Wright, K Wright, J Faill, J Arpino, C Walton, M Connoy, M Donkin, J Taylor, D Taylor, J Humes, G Gill, D Rennoldson.

9. **APOLOGIES** Cllr S Richardson.

10. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** One Member expressed an interest in item 7 (Planning Matters).

11. **POLICE REPORT** Not present.

12. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Residents from Dene Road were aware of the planning proposal at Fairfield's and that the Parish Council has put forward an objection into the planning department. This proposal had raised concerns amongst residents as the proposal would mean a significant increase in the footprint of the property. It would also make a 3 bedroom semi-detached house into a five bedroom unit with additional rooms (that could be utilised as further bedrooms), the extension and second floor window would give an impression of a town house and if the property was used to maximum capacity it would attract an increased number of vehicles therefore adding to the limited parking opportunities in the road. Residents were also concerned that the site plans used in the planning proposal were outdated as they did not show accurate outlines of existing buildings footprints. Residents requested the Parish Council to resubmit their letter of objection to the planning department and to include the aforementioned points.

The council agreed with residents concerns over this proposal and it was resolved that the Parish Council would resubmit a letter of objection to include the concerns of its residents.

Residents from Overdene Estate advised the council that they had received correspondence from the Solicitor acting on behalf of the new owner of the dirt track. Residents have again tried to negotiate with the land owner but this has been declined with access now being denied to some residents. Residents advised that the Land Registry may take this matter to adjudication. Residents will continue to attend the parish meetings to keep all informed.

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

13. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 2nd April 2009.
These were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from that meeting.

None.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). Members received the letter of thanks from Northumbria Air Ambulance Service.
- b). Members received the letter from Barclays Bank advising of acceptance of new cheque signatories.
- c). Members received the invitation from the Chairman of Durham County Council and two members would attend from the Parish Council. Clerk will forward details to Durham County Council.
- d). The Clerk advised of correspondence received from the Community Association who were advising the Parish Council that the Hall would not be available for the next meeting due to the European Elections taking place. It was resolved that the Parish Council would meet on the 3rd June.
- e). Members received the Spring 2009 Newsletter from DRCC.

- f). Members received the invitation to the Spring Meeting from DRCC.
- g). Members received the Durham County Council LGR Update for Partners Newsletter.

15. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk advised that no planning matters had been received other than the Fairfields proposal which had been discussed under representations from residents.

16. RENEWAL OF DOG BIN CONTRACT

Members resolved to accept the contract from Durham County Council for the provision of this service. Members also agreed for the Clerk to write to the service provider to advise that on some occasions the bins are not emptied on a weekly basis.

17. ALLIANZ INSURANCE RENEWAL

Members **resolved** to renew the Council's insurance with Allianz.

18. MEMBERSHIP OF OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

Members **resolved** to renew the Council's membership with the Open Spaces Society.

19. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a). **Street Light No 1309** at rear of Dalton Heights. Members advised that this had been attended to but not a satisfactory outcome.
- 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.

20. 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.
- b). **Stream Fissure.** The Clerk advised that he had received no further reports from DCC. Members advised that the site was littered with string and the weights used to hold down the former fencing. Members requested the Clerk to contact DCC on these matters and for the site to be reinstated.
- c). **Village Planters.** The Clerk advised that the order has been issued to Horn's.
- d). **Village Green.** Members requested the Clerk to source samples of seating to replace the seats on the village green. Members also agreed for the site to be planted up with a mixture of bulbs for display in spring and would assist in planting up the site in late September.

21. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a). **Durham Miners' Gala.** Members resolved to donate £35 to this event.
- b). **Open Spaces Society.** Members resolved to donate £25 to its appeal for the 'Open Spaces and Public Paths Campaign'.

22. 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.

23. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Clerk advised that of the 4 people who had expressed an interest in the vacancies only two had returned the information requested. Enquiries made by the Clerk found that two candidates had not received the information sent. The Clerk had again forwarded the information and had given a closing date for return. The Clerk would be sending information regarding the candidates and interview process to Members when details are received.

24. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of her attendance at the CDALC meeting held in County Hall that considered the constitutional change to the CDALC following the LGR. She had also attended a meeting held by the Easington Association of Local Councils to elect a Town/Parish Councillor representative to the newly formed AAP. The Chairman further advised that the launch of the AAP in Shotton Hall on 11th May 2009 was oversubscribed and some Parish Councils may not be able to attend.

25. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised members that he had sourced new keys and barrels for the notice boards. These were provided free of charge by Glasdon and will be installed by the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that he was having difficulties in managing the website and would be seeking some further training from the previous owner. The PDF writer software is costing an estimated £200 although further options are being sought.

26. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members advised that the repositioning of the barrier at Sidmouth still remains outstanding. Members requested the Clerk to contact DCC on this matter.

Members advised that a Methadone bottle was found and reported to the Police for possible tracing.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the European Elections the Council will meet on Wednesday 3rd June 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIRMAN
3rd June 2009