

# Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010

- Present:** Councillors: W Kennedy (Chairman), M Oliver, M Hepplewhite, C Olsen, J Humes, S Richardson, L Keegan.
- Public:** J Taylor, D Taylor, J Arpino, C Walton, D Rennoldson and K Wright. Police: Brian Dawson and Janet Hutchinson.

8. **APOLOGIES** M Gustard.

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

### 10. **POLICE REPORT**

The local police gave apologies for Graham Stephenson who was unable to attend.

Since the last meeting there have been no burglaries, no criminal damage and 1 incident of rowdy behaviour at Dartmouth Close.

No vehicle nuisance and no thefts reported.

Members advised that youths were congregating in the fields between the Dene and Graham Way where drink and possibly drugs are being consumed. The youths were making camps in the tree/bushes. Police would investigate this matter. Members expressed concerns that young people were getting access to alcohol. The police advised that despite their checks at retail out-lets it would appear that adults are the main culprits.

Members raised concerns at the Caravan parked along Dene Road which had been there for several days and is situated on a slight brow of a hill and bend causing difficulties to drivers. The Police advised that they would make enquiries on this matter.

Members asked if there had been any report of a break-in to a vehicle and a generator stolen. The police advised that they had not received such a report.

Any issues can be reported by email to [graham.stephenson@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:graham.stephenson@durham.pnn.police.uk) or by phoning 0345 60 60 365 ext: 6702702 or 3752702

The Chairman thanked the police for their attendance.

### 11. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

A resident from Dene Road gave thanks to the Chairman and the Parish Council for their support and efforts concerning the planning application at Fairfields.

12. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

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

**Matters arising from that meeting.**

The member who attends the Seaham Destination meeting advised that she is now to receive invitations to future meetings.

A further member expressed an interest in the road safety training.

### 13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Members received the CDALC newsletter (April 2010).

b) The Clerk advised of the NALC conference to take place in York. It was agreed for the Chairman and Clerk to attend at the cost of £90 plus VAT each.

- c) The Clerk advised of the Society of Local Council Clerks conference to take place at Shotton Hall, Peterlee. It was agreed for the Clerk to attend at a cost of £55 plus VAT.
- d) Members received the information from NALC Car Allowances and agreed to implement these rates.
- e) Members received the CPRE Fieldwork April 2010 newsletter.
- f) Members received the Countryside Spring Voice 2010 newsletter.
- g) Members received the information/letter from British Energy concerning the Nuclear Development in Hartlepool.
- h) Members received the letter of thanks from Mencap for the donation provided.

#### **14. PLANNING MATTERS**

**None received.**

The Clerk advised that he had received an anonymous letter concerning 'illegal' developments in the rear of a property along Dene Road. DCC's Planning Department advised they had no knowledge of any such matters taking place illegally and had made a site visit to observe matters.

#### **15. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL REGISTER of INTERESTS**

The Clerk advised that he had provided members with a copy of documents requested by DCC and asked members to complete and return to him at the next meeting.

#### **16. OPEN SPACES SOCIETY ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

Members agreed to renew the annual subscription at a cost of £40.00 .

#### **17. RENEWAL OF COUNCIL'S INSURANCE POLICY**

The Clerk advised members that the annual insurance policy would be £731.94 for the year and that additions to this policy to include the new seating are advisable due to the cost involved. Members agreed to this annual premium and for the Clerk to add the new seating to the policy.

#### **18. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Clerk provided all members with minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee and advised of the action points for the Clerk to progress. The recommendation to set aside £5,000 for the Village Green project was approved by the council.

The Clerk further advised that only 2 quotations were received for planting the floral displays and it was agreed to accept the quotation from D.L.D. Gardening Services. In view of the new seating placed at St. Andrews Junction members proposed that an additional tub be sited here and permitted the Clerk to arrange matters with the contractor. Members further advised that 2 tubs were missing from the Top of Deneside and agreed for these to be replaced as well.

#### **19. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

- a). **Unclassified Road, The Dene.** The Clerk advised that he had not received any offer of financial support from local DCC Members or DCC Highways on this matter.
- b). **B1285, Times Inn Bank.** Members advised the Clerk that local residents had cut back the tree growth that was obscuring the road signs and the cutting back of the hedge line is still outstanding. The Clerk was requested to contact DCC Highways regarding this matter.
- c). **Condition of Footpaths.** The Clerk advised that he had viewed areas where footpath repairs had been undertaken along St. Andrews Church. Members advised that footpaths in Dalton Heights still required attention.

#### **20. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- a) Members agreed to provide £30 to Victim Support.

b) Members agreed to provide £30 to the Open Spaces Society for their 'Reopening the Gates' appeal.

#### **21. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month with the invoices received. Members agreed to the invoices/payments for voucher 101558 to 101565. The Clerk further advised that the full precept for the year was received from DCC.

#### **22. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised of her attendance at the recent AAP funding meeting and discovered that County Councillor's Neighbourhood Funds were being used to fund Speed Scanners. The Chairman requested the Clerk to write to our DCC Councillors seeking funds to support an installation on the B1285 Times Inn Bank.

The Chairman also advised that she had attended an AAP Development Day which provided the opportunity to lobby local county councillors on local issues in the parish.

#### **23. CLERK'S REPORT**

- a) The Clerk advised of the 'Ownership of Bus Shelters' survey being undertaken by DCC. The Clerk would reply with a zero return.
- b) The Clerk advised that he had received a request for financial support from the Durham Miners' Association for the Annual Gala. Members agreed to provide £35.
- c) The Clerk advised that he had received the minutes of the recent AAP Meetings.
- d) The Clerk advised that he had received information from Steve Ragg at CDALC seeking nominations for the Executive Committee. Members had no nominations.
- e) The Clerk advised that he had sent in the Dog Bin Contract renewal to DCC with a revised rate of £632.38 for the year. Arrangements were being made for the missing bin to be replaced and a reduction in the service charge is still being disputed with DCC due to a bin being missing for many months.

#### **24. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Cllr Olsen advised of her forthcoming marriage and change of name and gave apologies for the next meeting.

Members expressed concerns at the alleyway paths at Jubilee, Doreen and Queens avenue. The Clerk was requested to contact the local Environment Office at Easington on this matter.

A member had attended the Seaham Mayor's Ball.

Members raised the issue of road markings at Dalton Heights road junctions and requested the Clerk to contact DCC Highways for a costing to undertake this work by the parish.

Members were also concerned that speeding traffic coming up the B1285 (Times Inn Bank) were causing a danger to traffic turning into Dalton Height's. Members suggested that a slip road could be a solution to this problem or rumble strips on approach to the roundabout. The Clerk would contact DCC Highways on these matters.

Members advised that the Community Spaces Grant for the development of the Village Green had not been successful although Groundwork was investigating other options.

Members also sought to have information on the Dalton-le-Dale website for local groups. The Clerk advised that he was seeking to renew the website via the services of DCC and provide information for the Parish Council and had set pages for the community groups and local activities.

Members raised concerns regarding the Poultry Farm and were concerned that details of the planning decision were being breached.

#### **25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday 3rd June 2010**