

# Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011

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

**Public:** N Wright, K Wright, C Walton, M Lennox and J Arpino.

142. **APOLOGIES.** None

143. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

144. A member addressed the meeting to give an apology concerning the statement made at the previous meeting that was critical of a decision made by members. The chairman and members of the council accepted the apology.

145. **POLICE REPORT**

Not present but a written report was kindly provided.

All incidents reported from the 1st March 2011.

No reported burglaries.

No criminal damage.

No reported anti-social behaviour.

One anonymous report of vehicle nuisance, concerning parking around the parish hall during events.

No reported thefts.

Any problems can be reported to [graham.stephenson@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:graham.stephenson@durham.pnn.police.uk)

146. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

Residents advised that since the salt bin was moved this had prevented the refuse motor from encroaching on the roadside verge. It was suggested that a floral tub be sited at the area where vehicle encroachment continues. Members agreed with this idea and instructed the Clerk to investigate the siting of a floral tub on this location.

Residents expressed concerns at the level of litter on the B1285 from Overdene to the Top of Deneside. The Clerk would refer this matter to the local Environment Office.

Residents were also concerned at the growth along the Times Inn Bank and requested that the growth be pruned back. The Clerk would refer this matter to the local Environment Office.

Residents and Members expressed concern that the safety fencing by the stream fissure had been removed. The Clerk would refer this matter to the local Environment Office.

147. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011.

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

**Matters arising.** None.

148. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE MEETING** held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011.

**These were approved by members and signed by the Chairman.**

149. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Members received the CPRE Overview (Winter 2010) newsletter.

- b) Members received the information from DCC concerning the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's intention to review the work of the Area Action Partnership.
- c) Members received the Open Spaces Spring 2011 newsletter.
- d) Members received the minutes of the CDALC Executive meeting (8<sup>th</sup> December 2010).
- e) Members received the minutes of the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils.
- f) Members received copies of the LCR magazine.
- g) Members received the letter of thanks from Seaham Town Council for the donation made by a member to the Chairman's Charity evening.

#### **150. PLANNING MATTERS**

- Approval.** The Clerk advised of the planning approval for PL/5/2011/0023 (Times Inn rear porch).
- Application.** The Clerk advised of the planning application (PLAN/2011/0072) submitted for 16 Bowes Avenue, Seaham for a two storey rear extension. Members raised no concerns on this application.
- Appeal against decision of Planning Permission.**  
The Clerk advised that an appeal was lodged against the planning authority's decision concerning the Poultry Farm of Dene Road (PLAN/2007/0672), where the retention and use of the static caravan was declined. The Clerk advised members that the objections and concerns previously submitted by this parish council would still be relevant and considered during the appeal stage.

#### **151. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

- a) **Dalton Heights, request for road markings.** Members received the reply from DCC that stated they would not provide road markings and would not consider any further correspondence from the parish council on this matter.
- b) **DCC, Road and Footpaths condition.** Members received the correspondence from DCC explaining their predicament in repairing all roads and footpaths following the adverse weather conditions. They further advised of the restructuring and provided a new contact for reporting issues relating to highway condition. A member commented on the repairs undertaken recently which are already deteriorating. The Clerk would contact DCC on this matter.
- c) **Verge Hardening Works, Overdene Estate.** The Clerk provided site plan and costing for sections of hardening in the estate that DCC provided some 18 months ago. Members expressed an interest in resolving the vehicle trespass on the section adjacent to number 4 Overdene. The Clerk was requested to liaise with DCC and obtain a cost to harden both ends of this grass verge.
- d) **Footpaths at Queens/Jubilee, Dalton Heights.** The Clerk advised that he had met with a local Engineer from DCC who was investigating the issue of bringing these unadopted footpaths up to an adoptable standard. No costing for this work has been received.

#### **152. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- a) **Haswell and District Mencap.** Members received the letter of appeal and resolved to provide a donation of £30 on this occasion.
- b) **Durham Miners' Gala.** Members received the letter of appeal and resolved to provide £35 on this occasion.

#### **153. CHANGE OF BANK SIGNATORIES**

The Clerk advised members that he had received notification from Barclays that the changes to cheque signatories were approved and implemented.

#### **154. CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND, Membership Renewal**

Members resolved to renew the membership at a cost of £29.

**155. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk provided members with details of the financial transactions for the month with invoices and receipts for this period. Members agreed to the invoices/payments for vouchers 101602 to 101610 which included an additional invoice for CDALC (Training).

**156. COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Clerk advised that to date only one candidate had submitted an interest in the vacancy. Members advised that a further candidate was still interested in the vacancy and they would remind the candidate to submit their interest.

**157. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had nothing to report.

**158. CLERK'S REPORT**

- a) The Clerk advised of the correspondence received from DCC Area Environment Office, who were aware that they had not undertaken the works to prune the trees laden with Ivy. However, they were hopeful that this work would be undertaken before the onset of spring/summer due to wildlife legislation.
- b) For the forthcoming newsletter members requested that it included articles concerning the precept (no change), conservation status, trees along Graham Way. The Clerk would prepare a draft for next meeting.

**159. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Members expressed concerns that the fencing had disappeared from the stream sink-hole. The Clerk would report this to the Area Environment Office.

The member who attends the Police Community Safety Group meeting advised that due to cut backs and staffing shortages these meetings were cancelled. The police would be seeking other means of collecting community information.

Members reminded the Clerk to make arrangements to have the swings reinstalled.

Members advised of footpath repairs recently undertaken that were already breaking up. The Clerk would advise highways of this matter.

Members were concerned at the level of dog dirt along the public right of way to the rear of Dalton Heights and in the vicinity of Jubilee Terrace. The Clerk would forward this matter to the Area Environment Office.

Members expressed concern that the trees had not had the Ivy cut off.

Members were concerned that down the Times Inn Bank branches are catching vehicles and a road sign is down.

Members reminded the Clerk to seek quotations for the planting of the floral tubs.

Members expressed concern at the butchering of the Trees along Graham Way. The Clerk advised that he had written to Highways and DCC Legal Section and had not received any reply. The Clerk would send reminders and make enquiries via Cllr E Bell. Members requested that a letter from the Parish Council be sent to those properties in the vicinity and to seek a cost to plant 6 trees in the location.

Members advised that the kissing gate had been burnt and requested the Clerk to advise the Police of this matter asking them to patrol the area to deter youths congregating.

Members agreed for the AGM to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May starting at 6.30pm.

Members expressed concerns at the change in local council tax bills where it appears local charges have increased. The Clerk advised that members had already approved a freeze on the precept; however, differences charged to households can be due to changes to banding or changes in household circumstance. Members requested the Clerk to cover this matter in the newsletter.

**160. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011**