

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council www.dalton-le-dale.com

Community Newsletter

Your local Parish Councillors are:

Wendy Kennedy (Chairman)

Marian Oliver (Vice Chairman)

Cllr's Mabel Hepplewhite, Marian Gustard, Les Keegan, Sharon Richardson and Claire Olsen.

Your Parish Council meets the first Thursday of the month except for January and August, starting at 7pm in the Parish Hall in Dalton-le-Dale. Residents of the Parish are welcome to attend and our minutes are available from Seaham Library and available through our website.

In memory of Cllr. R Olaman.

In December 2008 Cllr R Olaman passed away. Robert was first elected to the Parish Council in 1966 and was chairman of the Council on 8 occasions. He also served many years as an elected member on the District of Easington Council and was also a long standing member of the Durham Aged Miners Homes Association. His experience, knowledge and commitment to his community will be sadly missed by parishioners and colleagues from the Parish Council.

Your Parish Clerk is Geoff Price who can be contacted at: 9 Rymers Close, Easington Village, Peterlee, Co. Durham SR8 3DE or by telephone 0191 5272387 (home) or 07778573763 (mobile) or email julrey@prisco.fsnet.co.uk. Geoff has undertaken the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) course and is awaiting news of his submission. Gaining this qualification is a necessity in the Parish Council's aim of achieving Quality Status.

Environment Improvements

Your Parish Council has worked closely with both the District and County Councils to make sure that our environments are as best they can be. Numerous incidents have been reported requesting their attention. Your parish council remains committed to campaign for road safety improvements along the Times Inn Bank road and for further traffic calming measures. A section of verge hardening was completed in Overdene Estate to alleviate parking and access problems for residents. The council is investigating the possibility of further such schemes in the area. Last year the Parish Council provided the plants and care for 35 floral tubs around the Parish.

Stream disappears in the Dale.

Last year a fissure opened up directly in the path of Dalton-le-Dale stream and the water disappeared down this hole. After several attempts this was eventually plugged by the District Council and further underground investigations were made. The surrounding area was fenced off as a matter of safety with further investigations and monitoring of this situation being watched closely.

Tree limbs cut off!

Trees along Graham Way have again been cut back illegally for no apparent reason. This matter is being taken seriously by your Parish Council and all incidents are being reported to the County Council.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place on the 7th May 2009 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Dalton-le-Dale.

This meeting is open to all residents of Dalton-le-Dale Parish. It is your opportunity to hear what your local Parish Council is doing for your area and it is also an opportunity for you to put forward ideas of how you want the Parish to progress. All will be welcome, so please come along to this meeting. If you are unable to attend, you can still forward your suggestions to the Parish Clerk at the above details.

Parish Council Precept 2009/10

Your parish council agreed to increase its precept by 2.5% for this year to account for annual inflation. During the year 2008/09 the council had a precept of £11,977 to provide a playground, maintain its floral planters, provide dog litter bins and to administer its business. The council has also provided donations to worthy causes that will also bring benefit to our residents. The annual accounts are audited and will be available for inspection following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. If you wish to exercise your right to inspect the accounts please contact the Clerk.

Local Government Review

April 2009 has witnessed the launch of the new unitary authority of Durham County Council for the governance of County Durham.

For many, this unitary authority may appear to be remote from local residents' needs and concerns. However, processes are being prepared to give your local communities a voice through the Area Action Partnerships.

Dalton-le-Dale

Community Association

The new Community Centre is now open and appropriately called the 'Parish Hall'. The Parish Council together with many other funders have contributed to funding this facility for the parishioners of Dalton-le-Dale. This building is already playing an active role in the provision of services and activities for the community. The centres management committee and volunteers are developing new usage and increasing the membership.

Planning. Your Parish Council is notified of all planning matters in the parish as part of the consultation process. If you have any concerns regarding planning applications please contact our Clerk or see the full planning details via the Durham County Council website at www.durham.gov.uk

Your Parish Council is planning to make improvements to the village green in the Dale. Work to clear overgrown trees and undergrowth will help define the stream boundary with more features planned to make this into a better community space.

Residents can report street lighting, highways and footpath defects directly to the County Council on **0191 3706000**.

DALTON-LE-DALE IN BLOOM

Last year's competition was cancelled due to the limited interest; despite many splendid gardens in the parish gardeners should be proud to display them. So why not join in, it's free and fun. The competition is open to all residents of the parish, with the exception of Members of the Council and their immediate families. Entry is free, prizes and certificates are awarded to winners and runners-up and judging will take place in August by an independent judge. Please complete the entry form below and return to your Clerk by 30 June 2009.

DALTON-LE-DALE IN BLOOM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM 2009

Name:	<i>Please tick category/ies you wish to enter:</i>		✓
Address:	Best overall		
	Best front garden		
	Best low maintenance		
	Most colourful hanging basket/window box/container		
Telephone No:			

I understand that in all cases the judge's decision is final.

Signed:

Date: